



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-090
Wednesday
12 May 1993

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Peace Talks Continue Third Week in Washington

Palestinians To Present Draft

JN1105125293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0945
GMT 11 May 93

[Report on interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli talks, by unidentified reporter in Washington, carried within "With the Middy Events" program; date not given]

[Text] In a statement to our correspondent in Washington, Sa'ib 'Urayqat commented on the Palestinians' appearance with a reduced delegation at yesterday's talks and on allowing 25 additional Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees to return to the territories.

[Begin 'Urayqat recording] The talks dealt with expediting the return of the Marj al-Zuhur deportees. Regrettably, it was only through a note that we received from outside the room during the negotiations that we learned that Israeli radio had reported that it has been decided to add 25 names to the list of the 101 names [of deportees who are allowed to return]. Regrettably too, this leads us to believe that the decision to send a limited delegation as a protest was a sound decision. Confidence-building in negotiations of this kind is very essential. [end recording]

In yesterday's session, Sa'ib 'Urayqat said the Palestinian side presented a lengthy and thorough response to the draft joint principles on self-rule that the Israeli side had proposed last week.

[Begin 'Urayqat recording] We presented a complete, lengthy, and thorough response to the Israeli paper that was presented to us last Thursday under the headline a Declaration of Principles. We informed the Israelis of our stand on each point that they raised in this paper. The gap is still there. We told them that we would present a Palestinian paper tomorrow. It should be noted that since the beginning we have proposed a new course of action, which calls for raising one point at a time, discussing it, and then moving on to another point. However, they preferred to present a paper. We had earlier presented four full articles constituting a declaration of principles concerning the points of reference, the interim Palestinian council, powers and responsibilities, and the legislative, executive, and judicial authorities. As I said, we will present an integrated Palestinian paper tomorrow including what we deem appropriate for a declaration of principles. [end recording]

Sa'ib 'Urayqat also spoke about the pending controversial points which hinder the formulation of a joint declaration of principles. Such points include Jerusalem, settlements, the authorities of self-rule, and the unified geographic entity of the territories.

[Begin 'Urayqat recording] We discussed basic points concerning the policy of exceptions that the Israeli side has been pursuing since the beginning of these negotiations. We said that it is contradictory to talk about one geographic entity and at the same time exclude East Jerusalem and settlements. We are talking about one geographic entity for the Palestinian territories which were occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem. This is a profound controversial issue. There are other controversial points concerning [Israel's] playing with words regarding the functions of the council, which the Israeli delegation insists on calling an executive council. If we call it as such, then the delegation should determine what kind of negotiations will be held regarding such a council. We are talking about an interim council lasting for a specific transitional period. We are talking about a council with legislative, executive, and judicial powers. Also, it is part of this policy of exceptions to divide the territory by saying that settlements as a whole are excluded and that the Israelis will be in charge of security. The continuation of this policy means that it will be impossible to reach an agreement by next Thursday if they continue to insist on their opinion. [end recording]

'Little Hope' Seen for Agreement

TA1105133493 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
11 May 93 p 1

[Text] Sami al-Kilani, member of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral talks in Washington, has said that there is slim hope for reaching agreement with the Israeli side on a declaration of principles.

In a telephone interview, al-Kilani stated without effective U.S. intervention—in accordance with the U.S. Administration's statement that it is a full partner—there will be little hope of reaching an agreement on principles by the end of the ninth round, next Thursday. Consequently, the horizons of the entire negotiating progress will be limited.

Al-Kilani affirmed that the official Palestinian response to the Israeli draft document will focus on showing the contradictory aspects of this document. Although on the surface this draft has responded to some of the Palestinian demands, its content and substantial detail deprives it of positiveness.

As for the U.S. role, al-Kilani said that the Americans are in continuous contact with the Palestinian delegation and are displaying a desire to be briefed daily on what takes place at the negotiating table.

Syria's al-'Allaf Dissatisfied

JN1105165593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Washington—The Syrian delegation to the peace talks will today resume its discussions with the Israeli side on the fifth clause of the Syrian document, which is related to withdrawal, at a time when hopes of achieving

any true progress along any of the Arab tracks of the talks with Israel in the current ninth round have begun to shatter. This current round will end the day after tomorrow, Thursday.

It seems that the chance the Arabs have again given to contribute to the success of efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region through their participation in the current round of talks, which began on 27 April, is about to be lost again due to Israel's adherence to its stands which have prevented the achievement of any progress in previous rounds, and caused the talks to stumble along almost all of the tracks during the current round.

Before today's meeting, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, reiterated: We are not satisfied with what has so far been achieved. We hope that any change in the Israeli position will take place soon, before the end of this decisive round.

Answering a question on whether Syria has agreed to issue a declaration of a limited joint statement that includes only possible points of agreement with the Israeli side and leaves out points of contention, al-'Allaf said: Of course we do not agree to such a thing, because the objective is not merely to issue a joint declaration. Such a declaration should include basic, agreed-upon principles. Unless Israel agrees to all the essential issues included in UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, particularly full withdrawal from Arab territories occupied in 1967, there will be no possibility of issuing such a declaration.

Lebanese, Palestinian Delegates Comment

NC1105182093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 May 93

[Nuhad al-Hayik dispatch from Washington; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The Lebanese delegation has presented to the Israeli delegation a document comprising, in the words of delegation head Suhayl Shammas, the Lebanese position and constants. The latest meeting lasted only 30 minutes, after which the Israelis requested a break to study the Lebanese document before announcing any response to it.

After the meeting, Shammas said: "We have presented the Israeli side with a Lebanese document clearly setting forth the Lebanese position and constants. This document's headline is: The political and practical framework of the Lebanese-Israeli bilateral negotiations. The Israeli side requested some extra time to study this paper, or document, in depth before giving an answer. We expect the Israeli response shortly, perhaps tomorrow or the next day. This is up to the Israelis."

Shammas declined to state whether the Lebanese document is close to the Israeli proposal. "I will not go into this matter. The Lebanese paper sets forth firm and clear

Lebanese constants and reflects the Lebanese Government's patriotic views and Lebanon's interests."

Israeli delegation head Uri Lubrani affirmed that the Israeli delegation will carefully examine the Lebanese document and decide whether it constitutes a response to the Israeli document.

In another development, in the wake of the past two week's optimism about the Palestinian-Israeli talks, the Palestinian side feels disappointed and frustrated because Israel has not fulfilled its commitments and because the U.S. sponsor has not fulfilled the pledges it made to the Palestinian delegation and the other Arab parties to persuade them to attend the current round of talks. In protest, the Palestinians are limiting their delegation to just three members and boycotting certain meetings. Palestinian delegation member Sa'ib 'Urayqat has told us that the Israeli offer to add 25 deportees from Marj al-Zuhur to the previous number of 101 is disappointing and that Israel must allow all to return. He added that the negotiations have reached a difficult point, noting that the PLO has decided to protest by limiting its delegation members to just three people. 'Urayqat said he believes this is an effective method.

'Urayqat said the U.S. sponsor must stop treating Israel as a state above the law.

The negotiations are continuing nevertheless, though with some protests. The Palestinian delegation will submit a paper today that includes the Palestinian concept of the principles on which the peace process must be based. 'Urayqat said: "The Palestinian leadership in Tunis—the PLO—decided to use this method of protest. I believe it is very effective. I do not know how long this protest will last. Of course this is the consequence of a crisis provoked by Israel and the sponsor's role, which is now limited to a mere declaration that it will play a full partner's role. However, even Israeli pledges to this sponsor have not been implemented."

Regarding the official Palestinian position on Israel's autonomy proposal, which has elicited contradictory reactions, 'Urayqat said that the official Palestinian position on this proposal is that there is a big gap between the two sides. He said the Palestinians support Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's remark that he does not oppose separate agreements in the various tracks of negotiation as long as they do not harm Arab interests. He added: In the final reckoning we are seeking to attain a comprehensive peace settlement on all fronts in line with international legality and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and Resolution 425 in connection with Lebanon.

Despite the current obstacle, 'Urayqat announced that the talks will continue. He remarked, however, that he does not expect the current discussions over a joint declaration of principles to lead to an agreement in the current round of negotiations.

'Ashrawi Views Participation Protest

NC1105185893 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800
GMT 11 May 93

[Report by Washington correspondent 'Aziz Fahmi]

[Excerpt] The Palestinian delegation sent only three of its members to the round of peace talks held on 10 May in an effort to protest Israel's failure to keep its promises to the U.S. sponsor to accelerate the return of the deportees and to lift the siege on the West Bank and Gaza. Israel rushed to announce that it would allow 25 deportees to return immediately to the occupied territories, but Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, says the Israeli step is not enough:

[Begin recording] ['Ashrawi] The Palestinian decision is primarily a protest over many issues: First, Israel's position toward the negotiating process entails much retreat and escalation. This indicates that Israel is not serious about the principles and basis of the peace process and about the pledges and promises it made to the U.S. sponsor. We were told that when we gave a positive reply [to participate in the ninth round], we would be given a list of measures and that when the negotiations started, Israel would begin their implementation. However, we have not yet received a full list, the implementation was not up to expectation, and many things have not been implemented at all.

[Fahmi] Dr. Hanan, what happened in the meeting with the U.S. sponsor yesterday?

['Ashrawi] As for substantive issues, the United States did not offer a clear position on either the Palestinian or Israeli substance. We have begun a new phase to see how to bring viewpoints closer or, alternatively, to adopt a third position or option. It is too early to speculate about the future U.S. position. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Israeli, Palestinian Positions Viewed

TA1105200293 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in
Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Israel is ready to give the Palestinian autonomy council legislative powers in the framework of responsibilities to be handed over to the Palestinians. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari says this reflects another shift in the Israeli stand. The draft of proposed principles handed by Elyaqim Rubinstein to the Palestinians states that legislation will have to be subject to agreed concepts and reciprocal approval. Our correspondent reports that Israel has further agreed to reevaluate various regulations implemented in the territories.

The United States is trying to bridge the Israeli-Palestinian differences of opinion to arrive at a joint paper of principles dealing with the establishment of an

administrative council in the territories. This U.S. effort is the focal point of the Washington talks on the eve of the round's conclusion.

Israel and the Palestinians are still conducting negotiations, although the Palestinian delegation has boycotted some of the discussions, sending a reduced delegation. Our correspondent Ya'ir Stern reports from Washington:

[Begin recording] Unexpected mini-crises arise in every round of the Washington talks, and one took place last night, when the Palestinians sent an abridged three-member delegation to the talks. Outside the State Department building, Israeli and Arab reporters waited to learn the meaning of the changed Palestinian stand.

[Chief Palestinian delegate 'Abd-al-Shafi, in English, addressing Stern] I think this is connected with the Israeli undertaking to move forward with respect to human rights issues, especially the matter of the expelled Palestinians, the question in the territories, the question of the closing, especially East Jerusalem, and other matters, you know—the escalated, excessive force that's being used by the Israeli forces, especially in the Gaza Strip.

[Stern] Israel, which had been aware of the Palestinian move, decided to ignore the protest and to proceed with the talks as if nothing had happened. The head of the Israeli delegation believes the Palestinian protest moves are totally unrelated to conference room matters:

[Chief delegate Elyaqim Rubinstein] We regret their step; it is beneath their honor. Agreements should be kept and honored. These are very serious, very important negotiations. It is very important that agreements be adhered to and that negotiations be conducted.

[Stern] The Palestinian protest includes Faysal al-Husayn's remaining in Tunis. It should be noted, however, that despite the protest, the Palestinians are going on with the negotiations. Last night they even faxed their draft counter-proposal to the Israeli delegation's hotel. The core of the Palestinian proposal is the demand to control all of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, in accordance with the Palestinian interpretation of UN Resolution 242.

[Stern to 'Abd-al-Shafi, in English] In light of these developments, do you see any chance of some progress in the days that remain before the end of this round?

['Abd-al-Shafi, in English] Well, this protest did not hinder the Palestinian delegation from pursuing the matter on the table—and that's the draft of principles for agreement.

[Stern] Elyaqim Rubinstein thinks that despite the protest and despite the gap between the two sides' positions, progress can be achieved—possibly with the assistance of the full partner—the Americans.

[Rubinstein] The Americans are certainly involved. They have been in close touch with us—and so far as we know,

with the Palestinians—throughout the past few days. The same will happen today and in the coming days.

[Stern] Both the Israelis and the Palestinians have submitted drafts of the joint paper of principles. The papers are still far apart, and the gap between the positions is serious. Today State Department officials came on the scene in an attempt to bridge the gaps and to encourage Israel and the Palestinians to finalize in general terms a limited declaration of principles on the establishment of the Palestinian administrative council before the end of the week. The purpose of this effort is to be able to say that this round of talks has had constructive results. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 11 May adds: "In reaction to the Palestinians' conduct, the Israeli delegation to the Washington talks has also decided to cut down its delegation. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that only five of the Israeli delegates are attending tonight's session. This session is scheduled to address the two versions of the joint Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles."

[With reference to the Israeli-Syrian talks, the report says that chief Israeli delegate Itamar Rabinovich "does not believe the two delegations will be able to draft a joint document by the end of this round of talks."]

Al-'Allaf on 11 May Talks

JN1105204793 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, said after the latest meetings in the ninth round of talks that there is doubt about the possibility of achieving anything significant during the remaining two days of this round. He added that if there is a sincere intention and will on the Israeli side, what can be achieved in one day may exceed what is casually done over a year of procrastination and wasted time. He also said that no progress was made during today's discussion of the issue of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, despite the seriousness of the talks. Al-'Allaf met correspondents and stressed his concern over what is taking place on all tracks of the talks the Arab delegations are holding with the Israeli side. He said that the talks are stumbling on the Palestinian-Israeli track as a result of Israel's refusal to implement its commitments regarding the deportees, human rights, and other issues. Al-'Allaf also said: We believe that what is taking place on each of the bilateral tracks affects other tracks, that progress made on any other track will help us make progress, and that any progress on our track will help others. Asked whether a date for a future round of talks was discussed, al-'Allaf said: No one has proposed any ideas about the upcoming round. This issue was raised during today's meeting, and we explained that decisions on such matters are adopted by competent authorities in coordination with the cosponsors of the peace process.

'Flexibility' in Syrian, Israeli Positions

TA1205061393 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 May 93 p 7

[Report by Ron Ben-Yishay from Washington]

[Excerpt] In a letter sent to U.S. President Bill Clinton two days ago, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad declared that he supported the continuation of the peace negotiations with Israel, and was even prepared to accelerate the talks.

In his letter, the Syrian president avoids any response to Clinton's demand that Syria clarify its concept regarding the peace arrangements with Israel in greater detail. However, the letter's tone was positive, and its contents and phrasing indicate that al-Asad is very interested in the continuation of the peace process.

After carefully analyzing al-Asad's interview with British journalist Patrick Seal, U.S. and Israeli officials have concluded that the interview signals a certain flexibility in the Syrian positions and is aimed at preparing the Syrian public for peace with Israel.

American and Israeli experts in Washington noted that in contrast to the relative deadlock in the formal negotiations between the Israeli and Syrian delegations, there has been a marked improvement in the general atmosphere surrounding the negotiations thanks to very positive developments in the field of "public diplomacy," or in other words, the statements and declarations the parties exchange through the media.

Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, said that the formulations used by al-Asad on the issue of comprehensive peace, and the possibility of making progress on separate tracks, greatly reflect Israel's proposed formula. It therefore appears that this could serve as another point of agreement on the Israeli-Syrian joint declaration of principles. Rabinovich also noted that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had recently made statements indicating greater flexibility in Israel's positions regarding Syria.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 12 May carries a similar report, which the announcer introduces by saying: "Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich says he does not see any chance of a joint communique in the next few days, but he hopes this round of talks will resume in early June. He said Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad made some positive statements in his recent newspaper interview."

[In recorded remarks in English, Rabinovich then says: "We discussed both the public diplomacy aspect of it as such, and also some of the specific references, particularly to the relationship between the bilateral tracks and the comprehensive settlement. As we noted, some of the formulations used by President al-Asad come close to the language that we have proposed with regard to this issue. Hopefully it will provide us with the basis of coming to

fully agreed text on comprehensiveness and the relationship between the process as a whole and the bilateral track as such."]

Syria has declared—contrary to its position until two days ago—that it was now willing to at least partially accede to the U.S. demand to hold continuous negotiations, instead of separate rounds of talks.

The U.S. "peace team" proposed one long continuous series of negotiations, with short breaks. This proposal/demand was also included in Clinton's letter to al-Asad, and the Syrians have now accepted it. From now on, the delegations will return to their capitals for consultations every few rounds of talks, and will then fly back to Washington to continue the negotiations, without any special invitation or prenegotiations. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Shafi on Agreement on Principles

JN1205072293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 12 May 93

[Excerpt] Other sessions of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations were held on all tracks in Washington last night. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher expected the announcement of considerable progress before the end of the ninth round on Thursday, 13 May. Details are in the following report.

Last night, the Arab and Israeli teams ended the day before the last's sessions of bilateral peace negotiations on all tracks. After the end of the session between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations held at the U.S. Department of State, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, said that he rules out any possibility of reaching an agreement on a Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles until tomorrow, 13 May, the date scheduled for the end of the ninth round of these negotiations.

Similar to what happened on 10 May, an abridged Palestinian delegation took part in last night's session after its number of members was cut down to protest the lack of progress during the negotiations. In another development, the head of the Palestinian delegation said that during the session of talks at the U.S. Department of State on 10 May, his team presented a Palestinian document containing a draft declaration of principles in response to the document that Israel presented to the Palestinians on Thursday, 6 May. 'Abd-al-Shafi did not explain the contents of this draft declaration. He noted the existence of differences between the two sides.

On the Syrian-Israeli track, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the negotiations, said after last night's session that if there is seriousness from both sides, then this peace process should be enough to achieve progress. He said that public diplomacy is an invention to avoid what should be done here. He added that Israel is avoiding the core issues of the peace talks and that official negotiations are necessary to reach a settlement.

The U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher expected an announcement of considerable progress before the end of the ninth round. He said he feels that negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis are encouraging because the negotiators discussed essential issues, as he said, and did not stop at the boundaries of the process and procedures. [passage omitted]

'Text' of Israeli Offer to Lebanon

TA1205101893 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 May 93
p 2

[Report from Washington by Dan Avidan]

[Text] Following is the text of the Israeli offer presented to the Lebanese delegation on 4 May in Washington, as reported by Arab sources. The document is translated from Arabic. It was originally presented to the Lebanese in English:

"Taking into consideration the Lebanese aspiration for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanese lands and the return of effective control over the region (of south Lebanon) to Lebanon as clarified in UN Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426, and considering Israel's will to sign a peace treaty with Lebanon in the framework (of the process) of the Madrid conference—a treaty that will, among other things, include clauses whose purpose will be the safeguarding of Israel's security along its northern border through means that will not require the presence of Israeli forces on Lebanese soil;

"And considering that the will of both countries, Israel and Lebanon, is to implement the aforementioned goals, without harming or subtracting from the basic stands of either, and in a fashion that will allow both parties to endure them politically; and with both parties' acknowledging that mutual security—including (the introduction) of a state of peace and quiet along the Israeli-Jordanian border—is the main interest of both parties;

"For this end, a military working team made up of senior officers and experts will convene to discuss the problems of security and to seek solutions (for them) which would be acceptable to both parties. The working group will make practical offers representing the positions of both parties, which will be discussed at the (negotiations) plenum.

"This working team can hold its session at the Lebanese-Israeli border—similar to the discussions held in al-Naqrurah in 1983—or in Washington, in the vicinity of the bilateral negotiations room, whatever the parties agree on.

"The working team will split from the plenum sessions to hold its discussions, and will present its reports to the plenum. It will work according to the instructions and orders issued by the plenum. Also, the (military) working group will work under the supervision of the two cosponsors of the negotiations (the United States and Russia) based on the foundations and principles laid out in the Madrid Conference."

Israeli sources have confirmed that this rendition is an almost verbatim version of the Israeli offer.

Lebanon Responds to Document

TA1205110093 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 May 93
p 2

[Report from Washington by Dan Avidan]

[Text] The Lebanese peace talks delegation yesterday presented the Israeli delegation for the negotiations with the response from Beirut to Israel's offer dated 4 May regarding the establishment of a joint military working committee that will also be political by nature. Suhayl Shamas, head of the Lebanese delegation, said at the end of the meeting that the Lebanese reply coincides with the Lebanese Government permanent stands regarding negotiations with Israel. He noted that he expects Israel's reply to the Lebanese document today or tomorrow. This was the first time that the Lebanese Government has presented the Israeli peace talks delegation with an official document, except for the list of Lebanese held in detention in Israel and the security zone it had handed Israel in the past.

The official Lebanese document handed to the Israeli side yesterday is called "The Political and Practical Framework of the Bilateral Israel-Lebanese Negotiations." Israel and Lebanon put in writing their new offers in the negotiations following an American appeal to them, aimed at providing some momentum to the Israeli-Lebanese track.

Nevertheless, judging from Shamas' remarks yesterday, as well as comments by authoritative Lebanese sources, it is apparent that the Lebanese Government has, in fact, rejected the Israeli offer to set up a joint military committee to discuss, among other things, the signing of a peace treaty between Israel and Lebanon. In their reaction document, the Lebanese are demanding that Israel first commit itself to withdraw from Lebanon, according to Resolution 425, and demanded that a timetable for this withdrawal be drawn up prior to the establishment of the joint military committee which will discuss the stages in which the withdrawal will be implemented. The Lebanese are also opposed to this committee having any political nature, and assert that only after the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon is carried out will they be willing to discuss the possibility of signing a peace agreement.

This Lebanese stand has been dictated by Syria which did not hold a positive view of the possibility of the Lebanese Government making progress in the negotiations with Israel while the Israeli-Syrian track is at a stalemate.

At the same time, the Lebanese noted that there has been a change in the negotiations atmosphere, and pointed to the calm manner in which Uri Lubrani has been conducting the current round of discussions. The Lebanese

also expressed a positive view of the fact that Israel has recognized UN Resolution 425 in a written document.

Lebanese sources have reported that in the current round of talks, the Israeli and Lebanese delegations have exchanged information regarding Lebanese detainees in Israel and the security zone and IDF (Israel Defense Forces) MIA's in Lebanon.

Results of First Session on Palestinian Refugees Reported

JN1205054593 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430
GMT 12 May 93

[Text] The first day of talks on the plight of millions of Palestinian refugees has ended in Oslo with a decision to delay debate on the issue of reunification of families. Forty-one delegations were at the third session of a working group designed to support the main Middle East peace talks in Washington. Delegates decided to put family reunification on the top of today's agenda.

The participants were briefed on a report by the Norwegian syndicate for research and social sciences dealing with the living conditions in the occupied Arab lands. The Palestinian delegate said that the atmosphere of the debate was negative, stressing also that the problem of the Palestinian expellees has not been resolved yet. He added no decision is expected to be endorsed during the talks and the debate would not cover political issues at this stage.

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Husayni Says Palestinians Not Withdrawing From Talks

NC1105121893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1053 GMT
11 May 93

[Text] Tunis, 11 May (MENA)—Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Advisory Committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, has revealed that the Palestinian leadership is currently holding contacts with the countries concerned with the Middle East peace process. He said Palestinian President Yasser Arafat sent messages to the leaders of these countries, especially the United States, Russia, and Egypt, in an attempt to remove the obstacles which Israel has placed before the peace process during the current round of talks in Washington.

In an exclusive statement to a MENA correspondent in Tunis, al-Husayni explained that the Palestinian leadership's decision to reduce the number of the negotiating team and boycott the meetings of the joint committees with Israel—namely, the committees on self-rule (al-hukm al-dhati), land and water, and human rights in the occupied territories—does not mean that the Palestinians have withdrawn from the peace negotiations. This,

he said, was a sign and a clarification to the various parties that things are not going as desired on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

Al-Husayni said members of the Palestinian delegation who will resume the talks with the Israelis were chosen for their ability to present the Palestinian viewpoint strongly and clearly.

Al-Husayni said the Palestinians will offer at the negotiating table a detailed Palestinian reply to the Israeli paper on self-rule.

After that, he added, the Palestinians will present a Palestinian document on self-rule prepared during the past week.

Al-Husayni refused to disclose the contents of this document, saying it will be presented at the negotiating table, not through the media.

Al-Husayni denied any dispute within the Palestinian leadership over the peace talks, the Israeli working paper, or the Palestinian document on self-rule. He said that this leadership is conducting continuous consultations—in which the negotiating delegation is participating—to deal with the Israeli ("stand") and put forth the Palestinian position forcefully and clearly to the parties concerned with the peace process.

He expressed hope that Israel will respond to various pressures from the parties concerned with the peace process, especially the United States, and that it will honor the pledges it, the United States, and other sides have made and which led the Palestinians to participate in the current round of peace talks.

Leaves for Washington

NC1105152593 Paris AFP in English 1343 GMT
11 May 93

[Text] Tunis, May 11 (AFP)—Chief Palestinian peace negotiator Faysal al-Husayni headed back to the Middle East talks in Washington on Tuesday to submit a counter-proposal to Israel's autonomy plan for the occupied territories.

Al-Husayni said at Tunis airport, following several days of consultations with the PLO leadership, that the Palestinian proposals would be placed on the negotiating table later the same day or on Wednesday.

The proposals were a "framework" for an agreement on interim Palestinian self-rule prior to a final settlement, he told AFP, without giving details. It also "lays down the basis for the next stage, that of a Palestinian state."

Al-Husayni said the Palestinian peace team was slashed to three members on Monday [10 May] in protest at the Israeli document on self-rule submitted last week, which he said was full of contradictions, and unkept assurances.

"The Israelis talk of territorial integrity and yet propose an internal break-up of the territories into units" to retain control, he said.

Al-Husayni also played down Israel's offer of taking back another 25 of the 400 Palestinians it expelled in December, in addition to the 100 deportees it authorized to return in February. "This figure does not satisfy us and confirms our conviction that the Israelis are stalling and not keeping to their commitments," he said.

Spokesmen for the deportees stranded in south Lebanon also rejected the latest Israeli offer, announced Monday in Washington, and insisted on their return in a single group.

Shaykh 'Abdallah Shams of the Islamic Jihad group opposed to the peace talks said the offer was a "slap" for the Palestine Liberation Organisation and for Palestinian negotiators who had returned to the negotiations with high hopes.

Progress Required To Avoid Making 9th Round Last One

TA1105174593 Jerusalem AL QUDS in Arabic
10 May 93 p 9

[Editorial: "So That It Will Not Be the Last Round"]

[Text] While the United States and Israel view the one week extension of the peace talks as proof of tangible progress in the talks, to the Arab parties consider the extension another opportunity they are providing for Washington to fulfill the promises and pledges made before the current round of negotiations.

Indications are that the gap between the Palestinian and Israeli positions on many issues under discussion is still deep. The perceptions by both sides over the dimensions and concepts of self-rule are still divergent. The same applies to the issues of deportees, human rights, and other problems that are always termed pending.

As for the other Arab tracks, particularly the Lebanese and Syrian, no worthwhile progress was achieved on them as confirmed by sources in the two delegations. Therefore, everyone has the right to ask about achievements that were supposed to have been made during the past two weeks of talks and in which the negotiators entered under the slogan of "a round of talks that differs from its predecessors, especially from the viewpoint of effectiveness."

With the resumption of the talks upon the request of the Arab parties, the expectations about their results ranged as usual from pessimism to very cautious optimism, bearing in mind that this round's failure will entail numerous perils. The Arab side arrived in Washington as a result of U.S. assurances and affirmations about the U.S. role as a full partner, in addition to the guarantees obtained for resolving numerous issues under dispute.

foremost of all the deportee crisis. All this merely for a declaration of Palestinian agreement to participate in the ninth round.

Hence, the biggest service to the cause of peace and its process is to achieve progress during the remaining week of the ninth round so that it will not be the last round of negotiations.

U.S. Role in Peace Process Questioned

TA1105190493 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
11 May 93 p 9

[Editorial: "Is the United States Fulfilling Its Role Now?"]

[Text] Once again there is contradiction or at least incompatibility among Arab, Israeli, and U.S. sources in assessing the results of the deliberations of the ninth round of negotiations. Whereas the Arab side is stressing that despite containing positive points, the Israeli proposals are still unacceptable in their present form, Israeli sources are indicating that an agreement on the Syrian track in particular, and the other Arab tracks in general, is imminent.

Apparently, the goal to which the negotiating parties in Washington are aspiring is "a general declaration of principles" at which the current round of talks will come to an end although it is clear that Israel has no intention of going all the way by responding publicly to the Palestinian and Syrian demands, or even the minimal demands. On the other hand, the Arab parties want to return from the United States carrying some "achievement" to present to their peoples in order to justify their consent to participate in the talks after suspending them for several months.

Here comes to prominence the role of the United States, which it promised to play upon the resumption of negotiations. That is the role of "full partner" in the peace process, which was launched initially by a U.S. initiative. Among the prerequisites of this role is determining the dimensions of the concepts and executive steps that must be realized, based on the resolutions of the approved terms of reference. Since Israel is the wavering side in implementing those resolutions, Washington must become assured of a real Israeli commitment to those resolutions, particularly Resolutions 799, 338, and 242.

Any declaration of principles that will be agreed on should embody the outlines and picture of a final settlement, whereby events would evolve automatically toward that solution without obstacles or confrontations. The solution must be binding to all. For that to be realized, the solution must be just, comprehensive, and objective. Naturally, this would have to be reflected in the declaration of principles to which the negotiating parties are striving now.

PLO Accuses Hamas of Selling Out to Iran

PM1105114593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
8 May 93 pp 1, 4

[Salamah Ni'mat report: "PLO Accuses Hamas and Iran of Conspiring To Undermine It and the Negotiations"]

[Text] Amman—The campaign of trading accusations continued yesterday between the PLO and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and competition over representation of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied Arab territories.

While Hamas denied reports about the conclusion of a secret agreement between it and Iran under which the movement would be provided "material, moral, and political" support in the confrontation with Israel, a PLO source said that the agreement "has actually entered the stage of implementation."

The source pointed out to AL-HAYAH that Hamas has received aid totalling some \$30 million since the agreement was concluded at the end of 1992 "with a view to undermining the Palestinian people's legitimate leadership and serving Iran's expansionist aims."

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, declined to comment on the report about the "secret agreement." He emphasized to AL-HAYAH that there are no endeavors to hold a new meeting between the movement and the PLO, because of Hamas' rejection of a meeting which was scheduled to be held in Khartoum.

Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, indicated at a recent press conference that the movement prefers allying with Iran to allying with the United States, Israel's strategic ally. And he denied the existence of any agreement with Iran to obtain material aid from it. However, at a joint press conference with Ibrahim Ghawshah, Hamas' official spokesman, he urged the PLO to "step aside" from the leadership of the Palestinian people "instead of standing up against those who want to fight to liberate Palestine."

The PLO official told AL-HAYAH: "Hamas has sold itself to Iran, which does not conceal its hostile intentions toward the Arab world." He added that "it likes to forget that Iran did not hesitate to have dealings with Israel and obtain arms from it during the Iraq-Iran war in what is now known as the Iran-Contra scandal." He pointed out that Iran, "which has occupied the Arab islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, is still considered the biggest threat to the Arab Gulf states' security because of its expansionist policies and its contribution to spreading troubles in the other Arab states."

He urged the Islamic movement to "see reason and think well before it gets more and more implicated with quarters which harbor nothing but enmity toward the Arabs."

A PLO source in Tunis revealed the day before yesterday that the Iranian Government concluded an agreement with Hamas at the end of 1992 in which Tehran described Hamas as the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people's jihad."

The source said: "The secret agreement was signed in Salah Iyad [as transliterated] camp in the Iranian city of Qom between a Hamas delegation headed by Ibrahim Ghawshah and Iranian officials whose identities were not specified. The agreement stipulates that Islam is the solution to all problems. And that the so-called PLO and its leadership are the opposite to Islamic action. And that they and their programs, political line, and conspiracies against the unity of Muslims should be confronted. The agreement condemned the PLO's and its leadership's acts of murder, attacks, and un-Islamic practices against the fighting Islamic forces in the Gaza Strip and the other parts of the occupied territories. It said that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his leadership must realize that the negotiations with the Jews will not be concealed by these actions against Muslims."

Iran and Hamas expressed in the agreement "their rejection of the autonomy negotiations, the U.S.-Zionist election plan, and the present negotiations with the Jews and any results they may produce, especially those aimed at recognizing the Jews or the legitimacy of the Zionist entity's existence." They also called for reinforcing relations with Syria, "which has an important and influential role in the Arab region and on the international and Islamic scenes."

The agreement stipulated practical arrangements, including "electing a new leadership (for the Palestinian people) that achieves their aspirations and national and Islamic aims after the failure of the PLO and its leadership to achieve these aims." It also called for "mobilizing all the opposition forces on the Palestinian scene to form a real front capable of confronting the policy of treason, capitulation, and forfeiture and the peace plan with Israel under Hamas' leadership."

Hamas yesterday issued a clarification statement about what it termed a "defamation campaign" against us through "false and fabricated statements and documents in an abortive attempt to conceal their continuing concessions and their violation of the people's will and national consensus."

In a clear hint at the PLO, Hamas said that "they have once again come back with a fable about the existence of a conspiracy between Hamas and Iran to abort a peaceful solution. It portrays the situation as though Hamas is in a battle with the PLO, not with the occupying Zionist enemy." Hamas expressed its surprise at "the level which these have reached in their dealings and which lacks honesty, is characterized by confusion, and resorts to cheap and absurd practices which fool no one." Hamas urged the media to "ascertain the information they receive through these sources about our movement,

and not to give them the opportunity to use respectable media services in the campaigns of defamation and fabrication."

Official Says Contacts With 'Western Parties' Continues

TA1105142593 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
11 May 93 pp 1, 15

[By Wafa' 'Amr]

[Excerpts] Amman—Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] representative in Jordan, said two days ago that contacts between Hamas and various Western parties are still taking place on diplomatic levels in Western and Arab capitals.

This is the first time that Hamas has announced the continuation of contacts with Western diplomats after the U.S. Administration's declaration that it has stopped contacts with Hamas in February. [passage omitted]

Nazzal refused to name the Western side or party with whom contacts are being held.

PNC Member Urges Delegation's Withdrawal From Talks

TA1105163393 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
11 May 93 p 2

[By Rashid Hilal]

[Text] Ramallah—'Ali Abu-Hilal, member of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has stressed that the Israeli draft agreement on self-rule does not differ from the one presented six months ago.

Abu-Hilal explained that the Israeli plan still refuses to recognize all the occupied Palestinian lands and in practice converts them into cantons and isolated islands in contravention of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab and Palestinian lands, including Jerusalem.

Abu-Hilal said that Israel still refuses to hold elections for a legislative council providing executive powers with full authority, including over land, its resources, and population. This transforms self-rule into a mere administrative authority with municipal and local tasks and powers. Israel is insisting until now to keep the issue of settlements, security, and foreign relations in its hands.

Abu-Hilal noted his rejection of this plan, which he described as emasculated since it does not respond to the minimal Palestinian rights. At the same time, Abu-Hilal called on the Palestinian negotiating team to withdraw immediately from the talks and adhere to the Palestinian principles. Abu-Hilal stressed that any agreement that does not comply with these aims represents a blow to national goals and exposes the Palestinian cause to danger.

Abu-Ja'far Discusses Situation With British Envoy

*LD1105183593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 11 May 93*

[Text] Brother Abu-Ja'far, director of the PLO political department, received British Ambassador to Tunisia Michael Tait this morning.

The meeting dealt with the latest developments and difficult conditions in which our Palestinian people are living as a result of tyranny, persecution, and siege in the occupied territories.

The meeting also dealt with various political conditions in the Middle East, the peace process developments, and the Israeli attempt to sabotage it.

'Arafat Gives Intifadah Anniversary Address

*LD1105200293 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 11 May 93*

[Address by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat marking the 66-month anniversary of the intifadah; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] After five years, Yitzhaq Rabin once again demands that we end the intifadah as a price for steps they have been promising us. After five years...[changes thought] I believe it is my duty and my right to remind him that if he was a true believer in the Torah, as he claims...[changes thought] Then reminding him could be of use to him. I remind him of the long time which has passed since his famous statement on their abilities to quell the intifadah by force. Do you remember that statement, my beloved?

Five years and five months have passed since he made that statement in Washington, in 1987. Today, I renew my position and my words: There will be no end to or suspension of this valiant Palestinian momentum or the blessed intifadah and the gigantic resistance before there is an end to the aggression and occupation; there will be no end to or suspension of the daily resistance before you leave our land, our homes, and sanctities; the stones will not settle so long as you remain occupiers. We will not be taken in by promises no matter how attractive they may be. We are revolutionaries who believe in an agreement when we see it move forward on the road to realization and completion. Our creative revolutionary will is multiplied in the defense of our people and land and sanctities, and our great faith deepens on the road of jihad and sacrifice.

Yes, my brothers; yes, my beloved: The occupiers' insistence that the intifadah end clearly indicates that we are on the right track to victory. [passage omitted]

Let there be more escalation, more and more resistance, more and more unity, more and more cohesion, more and more sacrifice, and more and more confrontation. [passage omitted]

Brothers, beloved ones, O sons of my great people everywhere: The Palestinian nation decided that our delegation would return to the negotiating table. Our delegation and the Arab delegations returned to the negotiating table in the wake of a pan-Arab decision—in particular, based on a better position by the cordon [tawq] states—to preserve the unity of the Arab position, which strengthens all the negotiators.

I have said more than once that the Madrid conditions were unjust. Yes, the Madrid conditions were unjust, and they had to be amended. Your effort...[changes thought] All of our efforts to replace these unjust conditions with better ones regarding both the form and substance of the negotiations continued. However, I tell you that these conditions still do not meet our basic demands.

The conditions for Palestinian and Arab participation in Madrid were governed by the results and climate of the Gulf war and the defeat, therein, of the Arab nation. We could not avoid participation. All the results and climate of that war would have fallen on the shoulder of our Palestinian people after it had borne the biggest loss in that war. We decided to go and to stick to our Palestinian constants at the negotiating table itself, where the fate of our people and of our region—our existence as a nation and as a people—were to be decided. It was a case of to be or not to be. Our presence on the political map would be followed by an inevitable presence on the geographical map whatever the circumstances, the geographical map of our land and our free and independent state with Jerusalem as its capital, with the help of Almighty God.

Allow me today to tell you that the decision to participate was correct, successful, and effective. Some of the Madrid obstacles which they laid are falling; some of its chains are breaking; some of our conditions are improving, improving, improving; there is a noticeable qualitative improvement. [passage omitted]

Our delegation insists on submitting our national constants and just conditions in accordance with international legitimacy at the core of the negotiation, whether regarding the subjects under negotiation—ending the occupation, expulsions and settlements, along with Palestinian human rights with Jerusalem at the forefront—or regarding the international legal bases which rule the progress of these subjects. Whatever plots, pressures, and attempts to undermine the Palestinian stance and avoid implementation of U.S., Israeli, and Arab pledges and commitments there are, our decision on steadfastness and confrontation in the negotiating arena would stop the evil of conspiratorial schemes against our people, our land, our honor, and our existence. [Passage omitted]

Let everyone understand that we are the difficult figure in the Middle East equation and the region's equation. There will be no peace, no security, and no stability without attaining the Palestinian people's lawful national rights. [passage omitted]

Starting now, we must step up daily confrontations and obstinate resistance, unite, and strengthen our ranks. Let the enemy occupier know that our people, with their full awareness and deep faith, are firmly interlocked with their leadership and distinguish clearly between all dimensions, trickery, and maneuvers of the deceitful path of the presence of the occupation and the coming of the dawn promising their sincere and honest struggle, their great sacrifices, and their blessed intifadah. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

We went there to beat the unjust conditions laid down to cross us off the political and regional map and to show the world the aim of the despised Zionist occupation. We have managed to consecrate a number of the aforementioned achievements for our people, for our homeland, for our holy places, and for our Jerusalem. Battles and confrontations are won and lost by both sides. We went there as a people courageously resisting through a blessed intifadah, through which it was possible to impose one's self in the face of occupation. Our people have been negotiating from a strong position and on equal footing, just as the Algerians negotiated and fought, as the Vietnamese negotiated and fought, as the prophet—may God's blessing, peace, and benediction be upon him—fought, and as Saladin negotiated and fought. We are very sure of ourselves. We are as good at negotiation as we are at confrontation. We went there because the negotiations are the scene of a fierce political battle. However, some might ask: Then why are you, O Abu-'Ammar, so careful? The answer should be because our enemy is deceitful, oppressive, and spoils. It is supported by a world superpower. [passage omitted]

Let the whole world understand that we want a just, comprehensive peace that preserves our rights, land, and holy places and not a surrender to it, succumbing to its pressure, kneeling to its will or a submission to the pressure being put on us from afar and from near, even by some brothers.

Yes, my brothers; yes, my beloved: We went daringly with our unity, with our united [word indistinct], and with our united will. We deal with due caution so as not to allow the enemy to escape from the grip of the new track on which agreement was reached before the start of the ninth round of negotiations. Our people do not bury their heads in the sand. [passage omitted]

Yes, my brothers; yes, my beloved; yes, O masses of the struggling Arab nation: The track of the last three weeks of the ninth round of negotiations and the Israeli occupation delegation's open maneuvers of deceit and the intentional criminal escalation against our people in the occupied land that accompanied it are developments which once more bring matters to a dangerous crossroads for which Israel is responsible. Naturally, the United States shares the responsibility through its position.

The Arab delegations—including our Palestinian delegation—went to Washington in light of the six points which were studied with Secretary Warren Christopher

during his visit to the region. We and the U.S. Administration agreed that those points represented a prelude and a criterion for the extent of the commitment to respect the resolutions of the international legitimacy. We also went on the basis of the U.S. promises made to the five foreign ministers and the U.S. promises made to us through fraternal and friendly sides and the Arab promises and resolutions at the meetings of the Arab foreign ministers and the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries which have not been implemented as agreed in an attempt to deal a blow to the credibility of the Palestinian leadership. Therefore, we decided to halt work in all the committees at the current round of negotiations which has yielded absolutely nothing and to reduce the size of our delegation to a small symbolic number to complete this round to which we committed ourselves with our Arab brothers.

It is clear that the United States wants to be a full partner in the negotiations; however, it has completely forgotten its promises and forgotten that we are also—as a Palestinian people and a Palestinian leadership—full partners in this with them. [passage omitted]

O masses of the blessed intifadah; O Palestine's children, women, and men: Our intifadah enters its 66th month today stronger, more powerful, most impregnable, more fruitful, and more dynamic. Our people derives its determination from it. Those who have been passionate in diaspora also derive the will to remain steadfast and the will to return from it. The Palestinian negotiator derives his will to toughen his stance and his courage to meet the challenge at the negotiating table, as well as to reject pressure and to reject humiliating conditions and repeated lies, from it. [passage omitted]

I would like to repeat here that the whole world should understand that there will be no stability, no security, and no peace in the region unless the Palestinian people regains its national rights in its homeland, in its Jerusalem, in its holy places, and in accordance with international legality. [passage omitted]

Central Council To Meet After 'Id al-Adha

JN1205083493 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 May 93
p 25

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee has decided to hold a meeting of the PLO Central Council, which consists of 98 members, to assess the current political process. The meeting will convene directly after the 'Id al-Adha holiday which begins on 1 June.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y upon his return to Amman from Tunis yesterday, 'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, said that the PLO made this decision during its first session on Wednesday, 5 May.

Hurani noted that Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation persistently demanded a PLO Central Council meeting, attended by all PLO forces and factions, to discuss the current political process since everything that is happening concerns the Palestinian people and all their forces.

The PLO Executive Committee member added that during the ninth round of negotiations, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi twice called on all Palestinian forces to formulate a Palestinian stand toward the current peace process. The first time was when Palestinian delegation members Sa'ib 'Urayqat and Sami al-Kilani came to Tunis and the second time was when Palestinian delegation members Faysal al-Husayni, 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamad, and Su'ad al-'Amiri did so in order to consult with the Palestinian leadership.

He said: Prior to the ninth round, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi repeatedly stressed the need to task a responsible body from inside and outside the occupied territories with supervising the negotiating process.

Answering a question on the purpose of cutting the Palestinian delegation to three members, al-Hurani said: It is a form of Palestinian dissatisfaction with and protest against the Israeli and U.S. stands during the ninth round of negotiations. He added: However, in my opinion, the Palestinian response to the Israeli stand should go beyond the reduction of the delegation. It should take the form of a more effective stand because

Israel and the U.S. Administration's stands are based on procrastination in order to gain time without making real concessions which, in turn, impacts on the prestige and credibility of the Palestinian side in front of its people.

On Israel's agreement to return 25 deportees from Marj al-Zuhur, Hurani said that Israel's policy in dealing with the the just issue of the Marj al-Zuhur deportees in installments is rejected because it aims to circumvent the frank and clear Resolution 799 which emphasizes the need for the immediate and safe return of the deportees to their homes.

He added: This stand on Israel's part should not tempt the Palestinian side to think that there is a change in the Israeli stand. There should be a continued persistence to faithfully implement the UN Security Council resolution.

Responding to a question at the conclusion of his statement to AL-RA'Y, Hurani said: We are being deceived by the U.S. stand and are dealing with it as a neutral party, ignoring the total U.S. partiality toward Israel.

He added: If there are expectations of U.S. intervention to facilitate progress in the negotiations, which have reached an impasse, then I believe that the U.S. Administration's intervention will not go beyond rewording the Israeli position in its own language. Once again we should not be deceived by this and we should adhere to the Palestinian constants.

Algeria

Accused Deny Involvement in Airport Bombing

LD1105224993 *Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic*
2200 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] The Algiers special court continued today, for the fifth day, the hearings of the pleas of the people who were accused of being behind the blast at Houari Boumedienne Airport. The accused, who have so far been re-examined by the special court, have categorically denied the charges levelled against them, i.e. that they belonged to armed groups and masterminded the bombing of the airport. The court has, however, insisted on the other hand that the investigations have confirmed their involvement.

FLN Welcomes Kafi's Suggestion for Dialogue

LD1105230293 *Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic*
2200 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Following Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi's speech on 8 May, the National Liberation Front (FLN) Political Bureau has affirmed in a statement that the speech included a number of indications which might help to begin a comprehensive and deep dialogue. The FLN has decided to put forward a number of proposals to the Higher State Council on how to organize the dialogue and how to provide the necessary conditions to make it successful.

Lawyers Protest Anti-Terrorism Law Amendment

LD1105170093 *Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic*
1600 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Our correspondent at Algiers special court, Mohsin Slimani, who is following the trial of those accused of bombing Houari Boumedienne Airport, has told us that on the sidelines of this trial the Algiers Lawyers' Association met today in the court to discuss its position on the amended legislative decree concerning the anti-terrorism and sabotage law.

He said that the lawyers' general assembly decided on a total boycott of special courts and compulsory appointments of lawyers to protest this amended legislative decree.

Government-Lawyers Showdown Escalates

LD1105214793 *Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic*
1900 GMT 11 May 93

[Excerpts] The Ministry of Justice in the last few days published a communique for public consumption in reply to the concern expressed by a section of lawyers following amendment of the decree concerning the fight against terrorism and subversion. The communique stresses that the amendments introduced did not harm or diminish the rights of defense of the dignity of lawyers. It was meant to provide a better framework for

judicial work in the special judicial councils and render this work more effective without harming the rights of the defense. The prerogatives accorded to the chairman of the special council in the domain of arranging and managing hearings in accordance with the new amendments lie in the possibility of the temporary debarring of the solicitor who fails to meet his professional commitments from three months to one year.

To date, judges in special councils have not resorted to this measure due to the non-repetition of incidents that had impeded the good proceedings of hearings. [passage omitted]

This measure is confined to special councils and does not affect ordinary court cases. Despite the clarity of these international principles [such as debarring lawyers], the Lawyers' Associations in Annaba, Constantine, and Batna held general assemblies on 6 May, discussing the new legal provisions concerning the fight against subversion and terrorism, deciding to boycott the special judicial councils at various procedural stages: beginning, investigation, control and pleading.

The debates of the Lawyers' Associations in Annaba, Batna, Constantine, and Algiers are illegal because they violate the laws in force, because they violate the principle of the sovereignty of law, and openly contravene the commitments of lawyers imposed on them by their appointments. These lawyers have sworn before the judicial councils to respect laws. These debates are also not the prerogatives of general assemblies of lawyers, because they are not of a professional nature [as heard]. They concern a legislation in force and this is considered as an illegal interference in the prerogatives of other constitutional bodies.

In the event of disputes such as this, the law on the lawyer's job itself has brought all the debates of the lawyers' general assemblies under the control of the administrative chamber of the Supreme Court. Therefore, the minister of justice has submitted these debates to the control of the administrative chamber which issued on 10 May 1993 an emergency order stopping the execution of the [decisions taken at the] debates of the general assemblies of Lawyers' Associations in Annaba, Constantine, and Batna because of the great harm they inflict on the right of defense itself, and their obstruction of the normal proceedings of the special judicial councils. [passage omitted]

Egypt

OAU Secretary General Ends Visit 7 May

NC0705151193 *Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio*
Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmad Salim left Cairo today following a three-day visit during which he met with President Husni Mubarak. His talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa dealt with preparations for

the next OAU summit in Cairo and the issues on its agenda, including current conditions in Africa and the OAU's future role.

Syrian Economy Minister Arrives for Meeting 7 May

NC0805042993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 7 May 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—Syrian Economy Minister Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi arrived in Cairo this evening as the leader of his country's delegation to the meetings of the Egyptian-Syrian joint preparatory committee beginning tomorrow. The committee will prepare for the meetings of the Syrian-Egyptian joint higher committee which are to begin Monday [10 May] under the cochairmanship of the prime ministers of the two countries. [passage omitted]

Senegalese Envoy Delivers Message for Mubarak

NC0805080393 Cairo MENA in English 0610 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Cairo, May 8 (MENA)—The personal envoy of Senegalese President Abdou Diouf left here this morning for Paris at the end of a several days' visit to Egypt.

The Senegalese envoy handed over a message to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa from President Diouf, current chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), to President Husni Mubarak. The message dealt with a number of African issues to be raised during the coming African summit slated for June 20-30 in the Egyptian capital. The message also covered means of boosting relations between the two countries in various fields. The Senegalese envoy was seen off at the airport by Deputy Foreign Minister Sayyid Sulayman.

Sweden Approves Grant for Energy Projects

NC0805111193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 8 May 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—Sweden's International Development Agency has approved a grant of 18.5 million kronor to finance a number of Egyptian energy projects mentioned in the second five-year plan.

This was stated by Electricity and Energy Minister Mahir Abazah after his meeting today with Swedish Ambassador in Cairo Jan Stahl. [passage omitted]

Mubarak, Syria's al-Asad Exchange Views on Issues

NC0905085193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0751 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this morning received a telephone call from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The two presidents exchanged views on a number of Arab and international issues.

Mubarak, al-Qadhdhafi Discuss Sudan

NC1105200893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1951 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Manama, 11 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call at his place of residence in Manama today from Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

MENA learned that they discussed the development of Egyptian-Sudanese relations in the past few days.

Sudanese President [title as received] 'Umar al-Bashir telephoned Col. al-Qadhdhafi before al-Qadhdhafi called President Mubarak.

Government Daily Views Israeli Self-Rule Plan

NC1105080193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0603 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 May (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper says partial acceptance and partial rejection are to be expected when Israel and the Palestinians exchange self-rule plans without risking absolute rejection. They avoid absolute rejection so that the negotiations can continue on the basis of positive elements, even though these are less than what is required, and on elements that are more likely to be rejected than accepted.

In its editorial today, the paper notes that the situation also requires a U.S. role such as the one it previously played in picking out undisputed points or those that only need slight amendments so that both sides can agree on these points or propose alternatives to make them more acceptable.

The paper points out that there are two points in the Israeli plan that open the way for productive negotiations and enable the United States to conduct positive mediation. The first is the Israeli Government's recognition of the possibility of holding elections of the Palestine National Council, which will assume self-rule, under international supervision without stipulating a UN role in this respect and being satisfied with international observers.

The second point is Israel's recognition of the geographical unity of the territories that will come under self-rule, although this will exclude Jerusalem and the settlements. The formula itself, however, opens future prospects for the land becoming independent following the transitional period of self-rule.

Iraqi Dinar Decision, Misplaced Trust Viewed

NC1105175093 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 7 May 93 p 14

[From the "Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab; punctuation as published]

[Text] We have repeatedly told King Husayn: You are betting on a nonstarter. Saddam Husayn is a man who

cannot be trusted. One day he is with you and the next day against you. He is the sort of man who has no qualms about sweet-talking you and then quickly turning on you and stabbing you in the back.

But, regrettably, the king has been let down by his calculations in continuing to support Iraq's rulers, egged on by false dreams that he reiterated to his visitors before and during the invasion of Kuwait. He thought that these dreams could be fulfilled.

"You have robbed Jordan just as you robbed Kuwait before." This is the cry raised in Jordan's streets now. But, as usual, Saddam Husayn is turning a deaf ear and has not heard the appeals of "yesterday's friends" whom he promised at the Arab summit in Baghdad in May 1990 affluence is coming...is coming...!!

Of course, the affluence did not come because of Iraq's harsh defeat, the rout of its Armed Forces, and the imposition of economic sanctions. Matters got worse in the last few days when Saddam Husayn ordered the closure of the borders between the two countries for six days so as to withdraw the 25-dinar notes before canceling them. According to financial and commercial circles in Baghdad and Amman, Jordanians hold around 15 billion dinars in this denomination.

Briefly, the story is this. In view of their close ties, both Jordan and Iraq bypassed the Security Council resolution imposing economic sanctions. The Iraqis were able to travel to Jordan overland and buy what they needed from its markets with Iraqi dinars and then return home. Of course, authorities in both countries were happy with what was going on.

But suddenly and unexpectedly, the Iraqi Revolution Command Council decided to withdraw the 25-dinar notes at the same time that it issued another order closing the borders for six days so that Jordanians could not travel to Iraq to exchange the "withdrawn" notes during the allotted one-week period.

Indisputably, that was a despicable and ignoble act by the Iraqi authorities, who justify their decision by describing it as an attempt to shore up the value of the Iraqi dinar, which had dropped so steeply that one U.S. dollar was being exchanged for 65 Iraqi dinars.

But what can Jordanians do? The borders are closed, making it impossible to get to Iraq. Jordan's banks do not accept the Iraqi dinar. Dealing with this currency was done only on the black market...!!

Now...the king has regrets. The Jordanian public is seething while Saddam Husayn is happily smiling because he has dealt a new blow...to a neighboring and fraternal Arab country. Such acts satisfy his sick cravings...!!

Export of Terrorism 'Declaration of War'

NC1105175793 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 May 93
p 3

[Editorial: "Terrorism: An Obvious Ploy!"]

[Text] A nation's supreme interests are certainly not negotiable, particularly if they are just, cause no harm to a neighbor, and do not seek expansion or hegemony. We hope, from the depth of our hearts, that these neighbors will agree with us that there is no room for frivolity in serious matters. We hope they will realize that we will not spare the hand that strikes at our interests. This is so because a nation's destiny requires the utmost care and caution.

President Mubarak was absolutely right when he announced on several occasions recently, including the Sinai liberation ceremonies and his May Day speech, that the evil of terrorism is no less serious than the evil of war and that every country has the right to make aggression and terrorism rebound on the source.

Egypt chose peace because experience taught it that no nation can continuously bear the destruction and loss of resources caused by war. Its leadership then assiduously sought to mobilize and direct resources toward economic and social development and the beginnings of prosperity. After five wars with Israel in 25 years which cost Egypt billions of dollars that should have gone to feed its people, Egypt realized that war would not decide the conflict and that both we and Israel had no other recourse but peaceful coexistence and redirecting squandered resources toward economic growth. Egypt made important and major steps on the path of growth and prosperity.

While it was busy calling and striving for peace and promoting economic development, Egypt was unexpectedly faced by those who tried to lure some of its misguided youths toward the practice of terrorism. The conspirators were dismayed by Egypt's success in making broad strides toward solving its problems and, setting their sights on the tourism sector, they deluded those naive young men into believing that tourism is taboo. They choose tourism because it is a delicate sector that can easily be damaged by frightening off the tourists by way of some terrorist attacks on them while they are visiting the country's historical sites. They also chose it because it had begun to flourish and was beginning to provide important revenue that should have reached \$4 billion this year, the equivalent of 13 billion Egyptian pounds. They decided that attacks on this business would hurt Egypt, compound its economic difficulties, push it into isolation, and make it abandon its pioneering regional role. It must be admitted that they have partially succeeded, actually reducing the tourist business by half, and costing the country several billion pounds. This has affected the job market and increased unemployment. Perhaps this was what prompted Mubarak to compare terrorism to war, for like war, terrorism squanders resources.

Exporting terrorism is an obvious ploy. Those who do not understand its implications must know that it is an indirect declaration of war against Egypt and its vital interests. Egypt cannot remain silent!

Minister on Drop in Tourism, Loss of Revenue

*NC0905113693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT
9 May 93*

[Text] Cairo, 9 May (MENA)—Tourism Minister Fu'ad Sultan has said that only five foreign tourists have died in terrorist attacks in Egypt over the past six months. In a statement today, he said that the media exaggerate the violence in Egypt and pointed out that such acts occur throughout the world. He added that this media exaggeration has led to a 30-percent drop in tourism and triggered a loss in tourism revenue of more than \$1 billion.

Sultan said the Tourism Ministry has signed a contract with a major U.S. public relations firm to promote Egyptian tourism.

Interior Minister on Security, Terrorism

*NC1105131793 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic
7 May 93 pp 5-11, 70-72*

[Interview with Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi by Chief Editor Makram Muhammad Ahmad; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Ahmad] Mr. Minister: If I ask you about the current security situation, what can you tell us?

[Al-Alfi] The situation is all right, God willing. We are now working to devise new security plans based on a scientific, sound, and correct methodology. We are reviewing the resources available to all police agencies. Also we are reviewing the training plans, because—now that we are approaching the 21st century and in an age of technology—our work must be based on sound and scientific planning and the use of modern tools and equipment. The Egyptian police force must be modernized so that it can apply the most up-to-date techniques that exist in the advanced world. The police personnel, be they officers or men, also must receive adequate, continuous training that can enhance their capabilities and skills so they can face any situation. Every person also must be placed in the position that suits his capabilities so that he can give all his attention to his job, thus enabling us to meet our goals. In brief, we are now in the process of an internal reorganization so that we can face all situations we may encounter. We are doing all we can to benefit from past events and circumstances, loopholes, or gaps to learn the necessary lessons so that they may not recur. We have already begun to buy all the missing necessities, be they equipment, tools, vehicles, or communication devices used for different types of security work. This is because public security is an integrated whole, the elements of which are interlinked. It is not confined to political or criminal aspects alone; it

also includes social security. Security is an integral whole made up of various links, and each link complements the other. We have to proceed along these tracks in parallel without letting one track overshadow the other, because they all complement each other and because in the end they all serve the ultimate goal of achieving a comprehensive concept of public security.

[Ahmad] Then you are preoccupied with two basic missions: internal reorganization and confronting the danger of terrorism, which still lurks in the Egyptian streets. You have spoken about internal reorganization, but what about confronting the danger in the Egyptian streets?

[Al-Alfi] I can emphasize that the security situation is good and will continue for the better, God willing, because we are upgrading our methods and plans in the face of these groups. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] Are all their leaders in charge of planning still abroad or do some of them by necessity have to be inside the country?

[Al-Alfi] Some are abroad and some are inside, but public interest requires that we do not talk about these things in detail.

[Ahmad] How did some of those inside the country get a chance to travel to Afghanistan or Pakistan to meet with other leading figures and then return to Egypt without being arrested?

[Al-Alfi] Unfortunately, by using forged identification cards and birth certificates they managed to obtain valid passports. We have seized some forged identification cards, blank cards, disguise and camouflage tools, and several passports, some of which belong to one person but bear false names.

[Ahmad] Are the people who are arrested leading or executive figures?

[Al-Alfi] Some of them receive orders from abroad and some others give orders to those who carry them out.

[Ahmad] Previously there was an idea that the problem of terrorism would be over before the end of this month because the majority of the leaders had been arrested and only the remnants were still at large. Then came the attempt to assassinate Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. Mr. Minister, do you have a clear chart of the terrorist organizations that reveals their elements and groups?

[Al-Alfi] The chart is clear; most of the elements are known. We know the leadership elements abroad that provide planning and financing. We also know the people inside the country, but I don't want to talk about this much.

[Ahmad] Information published by some U.S. newspapers says that there are 500 Arabs and Egyptians now present in Peshawar on the Pakistani-Afghan border,

and that when the Pakistani authorities began to pursue them a large number fled into Afghanistan where they are now living in the camp of Hekmatyar, one of the Afghan resistance leaders.

[Al-Alfi] We know what is going on in Peshawar. We know those who are there and also know that among them are three leaders sentenced to death, namely Ayman al-Zawahiri, Shawqi al-Islambuli, and Mustafa Hamzah. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] Do they travel to Afghanistan through Sudan and then return the same way?

[Al-Alfi] I don't believe that they follow a specific route. They change their routes of traveling abroad and returning from time to time.

[Ahmad] But the route must go through Khartoum, Iran, Afghanistan, Iran, Khartoum, and Cairo?

[Al-Alfi] They are now using routes that remove any suspicions about them. Sometimes they return through a European country, the United States, or another route.

[Ahmad] Haven't we compiled the number of Egyptians who traveled to Afghanistan from the time the door was opened for the mojehidin until now?

[Al-Alfi] Their number can be compiled and this is what we are now doing. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] Going back to the issue of violence in Asyut, some say that the phenomenon of terrorism is originally caused by ideas, that is, by groups that have corrupt ideas, want to rule by force, and therefore recruit some youngsters to achieve this objective. Others say that conditions of poverty, backwardness, unemployment, and the spread of negative phenomena such as corruption are the real causes for the growth of the terrorist groups. Which of these two opinions is the real one?

[Al-Alfi] There is not a single reason but a number of interconnected reasons that help the emergence of these groups. There is, in addition, a foreign party that has an interest in scheming against the homeland to serve its own objective. It is this party that is providing support in the form of funds, planning, shelters, and backing. But what should be clear is that, regardless of the reasons, there is absolutely no connection between terrorism and true religious tenets because terrorism is antireligion. Terrorism is even hitting Islam in the name of Islam. God Almighty told his noble messenger when He charged him with the mission: "Therefore do thou give admonition, for thou art one to admonish. Thou are not one to manage (men's) affairs." [Koranic verse] How can a young man attempt to control the fates of people and the faithful through the sword, gun, and violence?

[Ahmad] Mr. Minister, what is the latest news about mediation?

[Al-Alfi] I have never heard of it. No one has contacted me or talked to me. I am not undertaking any such thing.

What is meant by a dialogue? And with whom? As I understand it, dialogue can be done with young people who might not have the right or correct idea about religion. The task of dialogue here is to correct these wrong ideas for them. This is not the Interior Ministry's responsibility but the responsibility of al-Azhar, the Awqaf Ministry, religious scholars, and men of the media, culture, and education. It is the responsibility of all state establishments that are concerned with these issues, each in its own sphere. Supposedly, the young people must be enlightened through right concepts, particularly as there are many young people in the villages and countryside who cannot tell right from wrong in their religion for reasons that might be connected to education and upbringing. Here, dialogue could play an important role. But how could there be dialogue with groups that practice violence and commit the ugliest crimes against the homeland and society? Do we tell them don't kill and we will pardon you, only stop what you are doing? [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] There was been a plan to buy a number of helicopters to patrol the desert roads linking the Red Sea and the Nile valley in south Egypt, protect river cruise liners, and to uncover poppy and hashish cultivations.

[Al-Alfi] I do not think that we need this right now, because we can call upon the services of the Armed Forces' helicopters. The Armed Forces supply us with helicopters whenever we need them for the surveillance of mountain areas, hashish and opium fields, and areas inaccessible by car and used as hideouts by the outlaws. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] What qualifications did you have in mind when you chose the new chief of Asyut security service?

[Al-Alfi] I chose a man with an honorable record, a reasonable man who is not excitable, who is known for sober judgment, who has spent years in public service, and who can handle difficult situations and take initiative.

[Ahmad] Many expect you to wage a continued campaign on corruption. I do not know the reason for this expectation, but it is shared by many.

[Al-Alfi] It is normal for any security official to fight crime in every form and in every place and insist on applying the law against anyone breaking it. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] Mr. Minister, after you took the constitutional oath in front of President Mubarak, what specific instructions did he give you?

[Al-Alfi] The president stressed the need to be firm, objective, and fair. The president made it clear that fairness should prevail in all aspects of our work but that we should also be convincingly firm. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] How do you comment on Amnesty International reports concerning torture, a shoot-to-kill policy, mistreatment of prisoners, and the use of physical pressure in interrogations?

[Al-Alfi] These reports are exaggerated and largely untrue. In the most recent case [involving the assassination attempt against al-Sharif], the interrogations were conducted by the police and then the military prosecutors and none of what you mentioned took place.

[Ahmad] Are there any specific instructions in this regard?

[Al-Alfi] I gave clear orders that everything should take place within the law.

[Ahmad] Have you released the wives of all the detainees?

[Al-Alfi] My instructions are that inhumane and illegal actions should never take place. When we have to take action against someone because he erred we should not penalize his wife or any other member of his family.

[Ahmad] May I ask you about the lists naming people that the recently caught terror groups planned to attack?

[Al-Alfi] The terrorists planned to attack anyone standing in their way and opposing them, either through their views or their function in government service. They planned to attack judges, writers, officers, and current and former governors who played a role in fighting terror. But we are certain that their evil plans will not come to fruition. We tightened security around public figures and took measures ensuring rapid communications within the security service and an effective siege of terrorists. I do not want to go into detail, but our security plans are now more precise and detailed. [passage omitted]

Assembly Members Request Mubarak's Renomination

NC1205072093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 12 May 93

[From the press review]

[Text] According to the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, 425 members of the People's Assembly—including members of the National Democratic Party as well as deputies with no party affiliation—have signed a request for the nomination of President Husni Mubarak for a third term in office. It is noteworthy that the People's Assembly has a total of 452 seats.

Agriculture Minister Cited on Privatization

NC1205074293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 12 May 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-AKHBAR cites Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, as saying that 18 formerly state-owned agricultural projects with assets totalling 500 million Egyptian pounds have been sold to the private

sector. Dr. Wali disclosed that 55 other state-owned agricultural projects are currently being offered for sale to the public as part of a plan to encourage investment in land reclamation.

Minister on Extremists' 'Control' of Schools

NC1205082393 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 May 93 p 17

[Text] In an exclusive statement to the "People's Concerns" feature, Education Minister Dr. Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din revealed for the first time extremely serious facts about the extremists' intensive attempts to influence the minds of Egyptian students at various educational levels.

The minister said that a number of so-called Islamic schools have been found to teach curricula that are totally different than those determined by the Education Ministry. The aim is to implant many incorrect ideas in the students' minds. These curricula, he added, may affect the national unity that Egypt is eager to safeguard, and may even stir up premeditated destructive sectarian sedition, which every nationalist in the country is eager to avoid.

The minister said all necessary measures have been taken to end the extremists' control of these schools—mostly in Cairo, al-Gizah, and Alexandria—and their attempts to spread wrong ideas.

He said this serious extremist activity has lately been extended to cover all stages of learning, from the nursery to university level.

Every month, the minister said, extremist teachers are removed from their teaching posts and denied contact with students. They are assigned to other jobs unrelated to the essence of the educational or teaching process.

Interrogation of extremists before removing them from their teaching posts clearly showed that they were implementing a specific scheme that was drafted abroad and had received the necessary funds from the financing of overall terrorist activity, the minister said. He explained that Egypt's educational institutions were being used to inject extremist ideas into the minds of students at an early age. Those ideas would then be nourished and entrenched during successive stages of learning, so that the young, the architects of the future, would grow up with a fabricated conflict with the Muslim state, which the extremists portray wrongly as non-Muslim to mislead the young.

Dr. Baha'-al-Din pointed to an important issue: It has become certain that some of those involved in the attacks against tourism were teachers. One of the terrorists who planned the assassination of martyr Lieutenant Colonel Mahran 'Abd-al-Rahim and his son was a student at the education college in Asyut.

The education minister said that in their attempts to influence students, the extremists focussed on two

methods: Terrorizing officials who confront them and neutralizing the silent majority. Recently, however, they added a third method to divert attention from their activities: They raised unfounded objections to the process of textbook development, claiming that the ministry, pursuant to Israeli instructions, deliberately deleted material related to the life and works of Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and blessing be upon him; hid much of the Islamic culture; and largely condensed the history of the hero Saladin. The minister stressed that all these claims are totally fabricated in order to divert attention from the attempt to infiltrate education, which go hand in hand with attempts to spread terrorism.

Libya

General People's Congress Issues BPC Agenda

LD0905214193 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 May 93

[Agenda for Basic People's Congresses, read at the General People's Congress concluding session in Surt by unidentified assistant secretary—live]

[Text] In the name of God: The resolution of the General People's Congress concerning the drafting of the articles of the agenda of the Basic People's Congresses [BPC's] at their second ordinary session for 1993.

The General People's Congress: In implementation of the resolutions of the BPC's during their first ordinary session for 1993 concerning drafting their agenda of the second ordinary session, the General People's Congress decided to draft the resolutions of the BPC's concerning the agenda of their second ordinary session in the following manner:

Item One: Follow-up and Reports

1. Follow-up of speeches and meetings of the brother leader of the revolution and to follow up his tours and visits.
2. Report of the General People's Committee [GPC].
3. Report of the GPC for industry.
4. Report of the GPC for maritime resources.
5. Report of the GPC for public amenities, tourism, and communications.
6. Report of the GPC for education, youth, scientific research, and vocational training.
7. Report of the GPC for information, culture, and mass mobilization.
8. Report of the GPC for justice and public security.
9. Report of the GPC for energy.

[No item 10 as heard]

11. Report of the GPC for health and social security.
12. Report of the GPC for agrarian reform, land reclamation, and animal resources.
13. Report of the GPC for people's control and follow-up.
14. Report of the GPC for the great man-made river.
15. Report of the Libyan Central Bank.
16. Report of the Jihad Fund.
17. Report of the revolutionary caravans.

Item Two: The Laws

1. Draft law to amend law no. 9/1984 concerning organization of the BPC's.
2. Draft law to amend law no. 13/1990 concerning the GPC's.
3. Draft law to amend law no. 3/1970 concerning illegal gain.
4. Draft law to amend law no. 3/1986 concerning those suspected of illegal gains.
5. Draft law concerning the protection of ruins and ancient cities.
6. Draft law to amend law no. 9/1981 concerning national service.
7. Draft law concerning guardianship and protection.
8. Draft law on the protection and development of the coast.
9. Draft law on amending law no. 11/1992 on the registration of some properties.
10. To review the public administration law including law no. 15/1981 regarding salaries.
11. To issue a law on setting up and organizing local courts at the BPC's.
12. To amend law no. 10/1984 on the issue of marriage and divorce.
13. To amend law no. 6/1985 on mediation and accountability.
14. Draft law on some articles regarding associate companies, owned fully or partially by the state.
15. Draft law on amending law no. 19/1992 pertaining to the great man-made river project.
16. Draft law on the amendment of law no. 26/1986 on the monopoly of tobacco industry.
17. Draft law to amend some articles on road traffic code.

18. Draft law relating to writing wills.
19. Draft law on amending health law no. 106/1973.
20. Draft law on amendment of law on abuse of posts.
21. Draft law on amendment of law on people's court.
22. Draft law on amending some laws on municipal guards.
23. Memorandum on draft law on education.
24. To amend law no. 09/1992 on the practice of economic activities.

Item Three: General Issues

1. To discuss the publication of a constitution.
2. To study the policy on the distribution of wealth; the problem of employment; the problem of housing and loans; the problem of transport and public transport; foreign currency; the care of youth and the organization of jamahiri sport; tourism and leisure; railways; to stress a successful economic policy on public projects; to scrutinize and study the management of public companies on economic foundations; to study the convertibility of the Libyan dinar; to look into the encouragement of foreign investment in Libya; to allow prospecting for water wells.

Item Four: Foreign Policy

1. To submit a report on the results of visits undertaken by the leader of the al-Fatih revolution to sisterly and friendly states.
2. To submit a report on visits by leaders of sisterly and friendly states to the Great Jamahiriya.
3. To submit a report of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation.
4. To submit a report of the General People's Committee of Unity.
5. To approve international agreements and treaties concluded between the Great Jamahiriya and other states.

Item Five: The Budget

1. To follow up the implementation of the general budget for 1992-93.
2. To prepare a general budget for 1993-94.
3. Triennium program 1993-96.

Item Six: Accountability.

This is the end of the resolution. [applause]

Islamic Affairs Editor on Major-Rushdie Meeting

LD1205084393 Tripoli JANA in English 0821 GMT
12 May 93

[Text] London, Al-Ma' [May] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The British prime minister formally received Salman Rushdie "in support and appreciation" because it was he who impudently assailed Islam and the Muslim faith as he claimed that Prophet Mohammed was found drunk at the bed of Hind, that Prophet Mohammed was a reveler, a brothel goer and a womaniser. These allegations were made in Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses"

The Islamic affairs editor of JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY commented on this meeting and asked: Where are those who claim to be defenders of Islam? Where is the Islamic Conference Organisation? Why do not these people protest and boycott Britain as its government receives such persons who assail Islam, Muslims and Prophet Mohammed, at the highest level.

The editor said that they can no longer credibly claim that they are defending Islam.

The Islamic affairs editor recalled one American president's description of the Koran as a compilation of old Arabic sayings. The editor said that all those concerned had been informed at the time but they did nothing and did not even protest.

The editor exclaimed: Who still believes in the professed support of those people for Islam and Muslims?

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks With Sudan's al-Bashir

LD1105171993 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1608 GMT
11 May 93

[Text] Tripoli, 11 May (JANA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council in sisterly Sudan, today talked by phone with the brother leader of the revolution. The brother leader of the revolution also spoke on the telephone with Morocco's King Hassan II. During these contacts Arab conditions were discussed within the interest of the brother leader of the revolution and his concern vis-a-vis the current development of these conditions.

U.S. Impartiality Toward 'Terrorism' Label Questioned

PM1105082593 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 4 May 93 p 11

[Editorial: "The Arabs... and the U.S. Terrorist List"]

[Text] Two days ago the U.S. Government announced its list of states which encourage and support "terrorism" in the world. Three Arab states—namely Syria, Iraq, and Libya—occupy the most prominent place on it after Iran, which the U.S. Government described as the most active and effective in this domain.

According to the U.S. concept terrorism is the use of violence to achieve political aims, without any consideration for the political and social issues which force their owners to resort to violence.

It is difficult for us, just as it is difficult for anyone else who believes in dialogue as a means to solve outstanding problems, to encourage violence and support or defend terrorism. Because hijacking planes, threatening the lives of innocent people, and placing bombs in public markets are dishonorable actions which cannot serve the causes of those who commit them, no matter how just their causes are.

But U.S. history, which is full of support for state terrorism and the secret security organs' terrorism, as well as encouragement and support for tyrannical regimes, does nothing to entitle the United States to classify people as terrorists or non-terrorists.

The United States—and all the other Western states—recognizes terrorism aimed against white people only. If it is aimed against Arabs and Muslims, it is not terrorism.

Hijacking or blowing up U.S. or French planes rises to the highest categories of terrorism. As for hijacking and blowing up an Indian or Iranian plane, that is a routine, everyday matter which does not deserve more than a three-line report at the bottom of an inside page in U.S. and European newspapers.

Israel raids southern Lebanon daily and uses the most modern of its U.S.-made aircraft to bomb peaceful villages; it is a right for the Hebrew state to do so. But if Lebanese resistance men shell Israeli settlements in occupied northern Palestine, that constitutes terrorism backed by Iran and supported by Syria, thus the two states should be placed at the top of the terrorism list.

If U.S. guns down a civilian Iranian passenger plane over the Gulf and kills all its passengers, that is an unintentional error and does not deserve an apology. As for the accusation against Libya of complicity in the blowing up of a U.S. passenger plane over Lockerbie, Scotland—an uncorroborated accusation—that is terrorism for which Libya and its people must pay the price: a starvation siege and an air blockade as a prelude to an oil embargo.

There are numerous examples of official U.S. and Israeli terrorism practiced in various parts of the world in broad daylight. Suffice it to recall that Israel used aircraft to assassinate Hizballah leader Shaykh 'Abbas Musawi under the ears and eyes of all international observer bodies. We have not heard that the United States has included Israel on the terrorism list or imposed an economic or starvation siege on it. It also downed a civilian Libyan plane over Sinai in 1971, and the U.S. veto protected it from any sanctions.

If the United States wants to be a fair arbiter in the terrorism question, it should first stop its support and backing for the tyrannical regimes perpetrating real terrorism and repression against their people and ruling

by fire and sword. Second, it should cease to use its relations and influence in protecting the continuing Israeli terrorism against the Arab nation.

At any rate, Washington's use of this "terrorism" list is terrorism in itself, which should stop. It should leave this question to a respectable international organization that is not subject to U.S. hegemony, so that such a list will be respected.

Morocco

Rights Council Criticizes State Department Report LD1005155093 Rabat MAP in English 1248 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Rabat, May 10 (MAP)—The report of the U.S. Department of State on human rights in Morocco lacks deepness and neutrality for it contains judgements contrary to reality and to legal texts, says the Moroccan Human Rights Consultative Council, "CCDH," in a message to King Hassan II.

The message briefing the sovereign on works of May 6 meeting which coincided with the 3rd anniversary of the council says the council has 'elaborated a draft report to clarify things' and asks for the king's accord to send it to the U.S. secretary of state. The council also proposes to 'answer requests for further information' by the American Embassy and to supply to the U.S. Department of State, via the U.S. Embassy in Morocco, further details, set up permanent communication channels with American universities and media and mobilize Moroccan nationals living in the U.S., especially intellectuals, in favor of Morocco's civilizational mission.

The CCDH recalls in its message that the king has entrusted it with deepening dialogue with Moroccan organizations concerned with human rights. In this vein, the council says it held contacts with the National Union of the Moroccan Media, the Organization of Human Rights 'OMDH', the Association of the Moroccan Bar, and is planning to carry on dialog with other organizations.

The council, went on the CCDH, hails the king's decision to create a higher council of information and to celebrate as a national information day November 15 which coincides with the promulgation in 1958 of the code of public freedoms. The council also expresses support to the recommendations adopted by the first national colloquy on information and communication and wishes they will be implemented the soonest, especially as they are conform to the global democratic process initiated in the kingdom, a process 'marked by dialogue, consultations and will serve the general interest at a time the state of law is being consolidated and Morocco's international reputation and place is reinforced.'

The CCDH also praises the kingdom's adoption and contribution in the drafting of important international conventions, particularly conventions denouncing torture and other similar practices, heavy, inhumane or

outraging sentences. Ministerial departments involved in human rights issues were urged to engage a deep dialog and fruitful cooperation with Moroccan organizations concerned by human rights.

Malagasy Official Concludes Visit, Departs

*LD0805110393 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0930 GMT
8 May 93*

[Text] Rabat, 5 May (MAP)—Mr. Francisque Ravony, the Malagasy first deputy prime minister, ended his visit to Morocco, during which he was received by King Hassan II. In a statement to the press before leaving Rabat the Malagasy official expressed utmost joy at the reception accorded to him by His Majesty King Hassan II and admiration for the hospitality of the Moroccan people who have great respect and brotherly feelings for the Malagasy people.

He praised the relations between Morocco and Madagascar, pointing out that these relations are developing, in particular at the level of enterprises. Morocco and Madagascar have agreed to establish cooperation relations in various fields.

In a joint statement issued in Rabat at the end of this visit, the two sides confirmed that they have discussed the means that are liable to consolidate and strengthen this cooperation.

Political Parties To Get More Media Time

*LD0805133593 Rabat MAP in English 1226 GMT
8 May 93*

[Text] Rabat, May 8 (MAP)—Moroccan Minister of the Interior and Information Driss Basri has urged all Moroccan media to ensure a thorough coverage of next June legislative elections, especially the new measures related to the voting. In a meeting with members of the information commission stemming from the national commission in charge of supervising the elections, Basri pointed out that computerization of electoral lists has revealed some 60,000 names registered twice. Therefore, he went on, it was necessary to re-examine some aspects and add new data on the voters card such as a serial number, the number of the commune, of the circumscription and of the voting bureau.

The Moroccan interior and information minister also said the government is ready to reconsider time devoted in public media to various political organizations for

their campaign and added the government is ready to examine new proposals by the commission, especially those linked to granting more time and space to political organizations in public audio-visual media and governmental print press.

Members of the commission then took the floor to laud the understanding and consensus which marked the commission meetings which enable the commission to take appropriate measures on revision and adaptation of the electoral lists, renewal of the voters' cards and [word indistinct] of funds used in campaigning so that next June's legislative elections take place in healthy and mature conditions.

VOA Relay Station To Begin Operating Oct

*LD0805134193 Rabat MAP in English 1245 GMT
8 May 93*

[Text] Tangier, May. 8 (MAP)—The relay station of Voice of America located in Brieche, near the Moroccan northern city of Asilah, will start operating next October, the press attache and first secretary of the US Embassy in Morocco Evelyn A. Early said.

During a meeting with local elects and authorities and representatives of the media, the US diplomat said programs of Voice of America will transit via the Brieche station to West African countries and South Asia.

She explained that the relay station is using a sub-system of antennas made of 21 high frequency antennas divided into four groups oriented to four directions. She also explained precautions in view of hazardous electric radiations and pointed out necessary safety measures were taken to avoid possible hazards in 'hot' areas around the station. A wall is being build around all antennas as a barrier as well as several warnings in French and Arabic for the region inhabitants.

As part of American-Moroccan cooperation, Voice of America has trained three engineers from the Moroccan radio and television 'RTM' and three journalists took part in a workshop in Washington.

The Moroccan-American accord providing for the building of the relay station was concluded in March 1984. The relay station considered as one of the most powerful in the world costs over USD 200 million and its yearly budget is estimated at USD 2.7 million and will be using some 70 Moroccan engineers, technicians and other executives.

Bahrain

Egyptian President Mubarak Arrives in Manama 11 May

JN1105113593 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1054 GMT
11 May 93

[Excerpt] Manama, 11 May (WAKH)—Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Bahrain from Kuwait at noon today on an official visit to the country on the third leg of his tour of Gulf Cooperation Council countries. [passage omitted]

Received by Amir

NC1105115793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1046 GMT
11 May 93

[Excerpt] Manama, 11 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak arrived in Manama at noon today on a visit to Bahrain as part of his Gulf tour. Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah led the party that received President Mubarak at the airport. [passage omitted]

Comments on Talks With Amir

NC1205113093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT
12 May 93

[Text] Manama, 12 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that Egypt's relations with Bahrain are strong and solid, noting that his ties with Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah date back to the days when he was vice president.

In statements to journalists following the round of Egyptian-Bahraini talks that lasted for an hour and 45 minutes, President Mubarak said that these pan-Arab and fraternal relations are reflected on the relations between the two friendly peoples.

The president pointed out that the talks dealt with all issues that concern the Arab area, including the Middle East issue, the Gulf issue and the tension prevailing in the Gulf region.

In his statements, President Mubarak said that the current Arab situation is regrettable, expressing the hope that the Arabs will work out a way to restore solidarity and cooperation between them, because there is no way to rectify the conditions without solidarity.

President Mubarak voiced optimism over the Middle East peace process, stressing that the negotiations are indispensable because throughout history wars have never resolved an issue in the world. He said that the war might open the door for negotiation, noting that negotiation will not be easy, but difficult. However, through determination and ceaseless effort we could achieve a solution by the end of the year so that we could start concentrating on the issues of development of our people, President Mubarak added.

On the outcome of his visits to Oman, Kuwait, and Bahrain, and on his Gulf tour, President Mubarak said that Egypt's relations with all the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states are good, adding: We are keen on safeguarding the unity of these states by all means.

President Mubarak said that the GCC states must have close cooperation. Amity exists and understanding should also exist because it is the best protection, President Mubarak added.

Ties Established With Albania, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan

JN1105040293 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1740 GMT
10 May 93

[Excerpt] Manama, 10 May (WAKH)—Bahrain has signed agreements to establish diplomatic relations with Albania, Georgia, and Kyrgyzstan. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Report on Egyptian President's News Conference

LD1105155693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1338 GMT
11 May 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 11 May (KUNA)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak stressed here today that the danger of terrorism no longer threatens Egypt alone but is threatening [all] states of the world, including the Arab countries. He emphasized the importance of confronting the terrorist operation firmly.

In his talk with editors-in-chief of the Kuwaiti papers before his departure today, President Mubarak accused Iran of standing at the forefront of those who back and finance the terrorist groups in Egypt. He described those groups as "paid criminals" and refused to open dialogue with the Islamist groups which stand behind the terrorist operations in his country. He accused them of "seeking to undermine stability, to kill innocent people, to deal a blow to the economy, and to spread fear among the citizens."

Mubarak said that former interior minister Major General Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Musa was dismissed last month because he had conducted a dialogue with "the killers and criminals," and pointed out that that act harmed the state. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak stated that the terrorist groups are concentrated in the governorate of Asyut from where their operations start. However, he noted that "the instructions are given to them from abroad."

He made it clear that the leaders of the extremist Islamist groups are limited in number and were in the Pakistani city of Peshawar from where they then took refuge in Afghanistan after being chased by the former Pakistani Government.

President Mubarak also warned against Iraq's and Iran's greedy ambitions against the Gulf Cooperation Council member states, and stressed the need for the cohesiveness of these states to face up to enemies who are bent on dividing them. [passage omitted]

He pointed out that his Gulf tour was aimed at discussing the issues which interest the Arab nation, especially that of the Middle East and the Arab-Israeli peace talks, the ninth round of which is now being held in Washington. Likewise, security and economic aspects of the Damascus Declaration, which involves the six Gulf states, Egypt, and Syria is at the top of the agenda of the Egyptian-Gulf states talks.

The Egyptian president dealt with the Damascus Declaration which he described as one of the ways of maintaining the security of the Gulf, and he said: The security of the Gulf must be fundamentally a matter for the Gulf states. He added: The security of the Gulf interests us very much, but we cannot impose anything on the Gulf states. He underlined Egypt's commitment to the Arab common defense agreement in the framework of the Arab League Charter.

Concerning the Middle East peace process, President Mubarak affirmed that it needs patience, and he stressed that none of the concerned parties should withdraw from the negotiations whenever obstacles appear. He expressed his belief that the Syrian-Israeli negotiations are going ahead well, and he pointed out that both sides want peace.

As for the Palestinian-Israeli talks, President Mubarak said that the Palestinians have before them a proposal intended to move the peace process forward. He did not give any more details, but he affirmed that negotiations are the only way. [passage omitted]

The Egyptian president spoke about the relations between his country and Sudan, and accused the latter of stirring border problems since the time of the late two presidents, Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir and Anwar al-Sadat. In this context he referred to the border dispute over the Halaib triangle, and said Halaib is Egyptian. However, this does not mean that I "will go to war with Sudan, because I am against shedding blood under any circumstances."

He said Egypt's relations with Sudan are long-standing "and if the ruling regime is bad this does not mean I will [word indistinct] a state or kill its people." [passage omitted]

President Mubarak rejected any permanent Iranian presence in the city of Port Sudan on the Red Sea, and said "I will not allow that under any circumstance because it threatens Egyptian security."

He described Egyptian-U.S. relations as proceeding in a good manner and said [passages indistinct]

Information Minister Discusses Peace Process

PM1205100193 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
7 May 93 pp 26-27

[Interview with Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah by unidentified correspondent in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAWADITH] Will the stage ahead under the new U.S. regime be good for the Arabs, as the previous stage was in the days of President George Bush?

[Al-Sabah] The issue of liberating Kuwait was the first step to confront the challenges. And I believe that the problems and challenges began after the liberation. Because it is the balance of power in the region—in addition to the events which will face us in unifying the Arab decision, clearing the Arab air, and rallying Arab ranks, including the states which did not adhere to justice—which will determine the nature of the stage.

The present stage is the most difficult stage we have ever experienced. Because the Arab world is fragmented and every Arab country is facing domestic events—economic, political, or military.

He added: The present stage is difficult as regards the Arab situation as a whole, especially at the level of the Palestinian issue, with which President Bush dealt in his talks during his recent visit to Kuwait.

After Bush there are two points: First, the issue of the Gulf and Gulf security and the new U.S. Administration's position toward Iraq and its warnings about Iran. In this connection I am satisfied. But the views which they will adopt regarding the peace process in the Middle East are the source of all problems.

In my view, the new U.S. Administration has played the trump card in the peace process for the sake of its continuation and the agreement by the parties concerned to continue the negotiations.

What remains is for these parties to reach an acceptable solution for the sake of coexistence in the region.

[AL-HAWADITH] And what is the solution?

[Al-Sabah] The solution lies in the unity of Arab positions, which are fragmented at present.

What is said outside the meeting room differs completely from what they discuss inside the room. Anyone who believes that the peace process will produce positive results soon would be mistaken. I believe that more time is needed to secure such results. This is because I believe that the Arab parties, especially the Palestinians, are not prepared to offer clear and tangible concessions. I also believe that the Israelis will not make such concessions, either. So time is needed to enable the negotiations to achieve the desired peace.

But I wonder: Does the success of these negotiations and the peace process mean that we achieve a formula

similar to the Camp David formula or what was stipulated by Resolutions 242 and 338. Is there another option? I believe the two resolutions in questions were an opportunity which the parties missed.

The question now is: What acceptable solution will gain the approval and blessing of all the parties. I frankly say that the Gaza and West Bank issue, the Golan issue, and the Lebanon issue are thorny issues.

The present U.S. Administration will not exert pressure on the Israeli side as the previous administration used to do.

Bush and Baker exerted pressure on the Israeli side and paid the price—losing the votes of some Jewish communities. President Bush and Secretary Baker exerted strong pressure on Israel to get it to accept a settlement. I personally believe that the present administration will not exert the same pressures on Israel. Because the Democrats do not have such a tendency.

He added: There is one important element which could be a positive indication for the sake of the negotiations' continuation, namely Djerejian's remaining in charge of the organ responsible for the peace process at the U.S. Department of State, and the continuation of Dennis Ross' presence as well. Their remaining in the present U.S. Administration and their specialization in the peace process could be an indication that the U.S. Administration intends to continue what the Bush administration started. However, I believe that the new administration will not exert the pressure the Bush administration exerted on Israel. The ball is now in the parties' court. And I wonder: Where are the concessions, what kind of concessions are they, and who will make them?

I also wonder: Is the Golan the point of disagreement, or is it the divisions among Palestinian groups and streams? With regard to the U.S. Administration, the main element is its nonacceptance of Yasir 'Arafat—which could be an obstacle to achieving any agreement and is used by Israel as an excuse. Hanan 'Ashrawi and Faysal al-Husayni are two acceptable faces for negotiation. But the one who is unacceptable to the U.S. Administration is Yasir 'Arafat. Whenever he enters as a party in the issue, the peace steps tend to move backward. We will not achieve any agreement while that person is at the head of that organ. Whenever the parties reach an agreement in the negotiations, the negotiating Palestinian side tends to refer to Yasir 'Arafat - which, of course, hampers the peace process. In my view, here lies the sensitivity in the peace issue.

[AL-HAWADITH] Is there a tendency in the Palestinian leadership to remove Yasir 'Arafat?

[Al-Sabah] That concerns the Palestinian.

[AL-HAWADITH] In your view, is Iraq complying with all the UN resolutions?

[Al-Sabah] Iraq will persist in its arrogance and I do not believe that, under the present regime, it will comply fully with the UN resolutions. Iraq thinks that the world

will be preoccupied by other matters and thus will forget the issue of Kuwait and Iraq. Iraq is also banking on the breakup of the coalition states. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] What about the domestic situation in Kuwait? Are you satisfied with it after the legislative elections?

[Al-Sabah] Thank God, constitutional and legal measures after the liberation will reinforce cohesion inside Kuwait. There is no fear in this connection. Like all world states, we have some economic and social problems. But cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities will solve all these problems. [passage omitted]

*** Further on Suspects Arrested in Assassination Attempt**

93WR0232A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
1 May 93 p 1

[Article by Nasir al-Mutayri]

[Text] Kuwait—The Kuwaiti security authorities have arrested one of the fugitives involved in the terrorist network to assassinate former President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait.

Daydan 'Atiyah, 45, was arrested in a house in al-Jahra', 40 km from the capital Kuwait. He is the ninth suspect in the 17-member network. Only one suspect, an Iraqi, is still at large, and the search for him is continuing.

On the other hand, the State Prosecutor will begin investigating members of the terrorist network after the file of the case is referred to it.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that some of the suspects in the terrorist network have appointed lawyers to defend them and to attend the investigative sessions at the Public Prosecutor and before the State Security Court.

The majority of lawyers were reluctant to defend the suspects in view of the charges brought against them, which concern the safety and security of Kuwait. Some lawyers have in fact declined to defend a Kuwaiti member of the network. One of them justified this by saying: "The sensitivity of the situation and the nature of the criminal charges brought against those suspects concerning the sovereignty and security of the country cause some kind of embarrassment for the defense lawyer."

However, there are certain Kuwaiti lawyers who see no harm in appearing before the court and defending suspects charged with committing a crime against the security of their country because they believe that what they are doing is a legal duty and a support for the Kuwaiti judiciary, which has been distinguished by its integrity and justice. In any case, the Kuwaiti penal code provides that the court should appoint lawyers to defend the suspects if any of them fails to appoint a lawyer because he is unable to meet the expenses or because of any other reason.

Acting Premier Sees Possible End To MIA Problem

PM1105130393 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 May 93 pp 1, 4

[Wafa'i Diyyab report: "Sabah al-Ahmad Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Only One Government in Kuwait"]

[Excerpts] Kuwait—This interview with Kuwaiti Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah is the second since the liberation of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Sabah al-Ahmad says that "Kuwait will never ever forget the Saudi favor. The memory of the liberation will always be linked to the sacrifices made by the Kingdom for the restoration of rights to their owners." He adds that he will "not allow anything to undermine the strong relations between the two countries. Anything contrary to that is totally rejected."

Referring to the current Kuwaiti-Saudi coordination in numerous fields, he says that "it will continue in the interests of the two fraternal countries and peoples and the Arab nation."

The acting prime minister expresses some optimism regarding the possibility of closing the file on Kuwaiti POW's and missing persons. He commended the efforts of King Hassan II which have already resulted in the return of one missing family to Kuwait, but he stresses that Kuwait has rejected and will continue to reject any attempt to barter the POW's for a restoration of relations with the "hostile states."

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad confirms that "Kuwait is about to reassess its foreign policy because it does not want to be isolated from the world," but he makes the condition that "the 'hostile states' should admit that they wronged the Kuwaiti people."

He says that the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border demarcation committee will hold its final meeting next week to sign the land and sea border demarcation agreement, adding: "We hope that will finally resolve the issue."

It is not easy to persuade Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad to answer all questions, especially at this particular time when he is fighting on several fronts because of the absence of Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah abroad, but he gives the impression that everything is proceeding in the right direction in accordance with the concept envisaged by the government when it was formed over six months ago. What is important, in his view, is that the government is cohesive and united and, even more important, that there is only one government and all rumors about a government's government and an opposition government are no more than fishing in troubled waters.

Yemen**Salih, al-Bid Sign Coalition Agreement**

JN1105150093 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] The General Committee of the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] held a joint meeting under the chairmanship of brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the GPC, and brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the YSP.

The conferees discussed the results of the 27 April general elections for the House of Representatives. They also discussed the draft document for coalition coordination on the path of unity between the GPC and the YSP. The GPC and YSP secretaries general signed the document after it was unanimously approved by the conferees.

The document calls for forming a single parliamentary bloc for the GPC and YSP once the elected House of Representatives embarks on its work; continuing work to build a modern state; defining the features of the political system in light of party pluralism; highlighting the option of democracy as a firm course for political, economic, and social life; defining the political and economic bases, social rights, and public liberties; and defining the powers of the legislative, executive, and judiciary branches within the framework of separation and integration. The legislative branch comprises the House of Representatives, the al-Shura Council, and the National Assembly.

The document also specifies means to strengthen the executive branch by electing the head of state and his deputy by the people, indicating very clearly the government's relationship with the legislature and the state presidency, viewing the government as open to political parties and organizations for the peaceful transfer of power, and electing local councils and the basic administrative leadership and regulating their relations with the central power in accordance with the principle of political decentralization specified by the law.

The document also specifies the powers of the National Assembly and the state presidency. The document also sets a presidential term limit of two five-year terms. The document further specifies the agencies of local government and calls for electing local councils on the level of the governorate and the province, as well as electing governors and provincial officials.

The two sides—the GPC's Central Committee and the YSP Political Bureau—have also agreed to set up five committees to implement the agreed-upon principles and objectives.

**Minister on Elections, Violence, Tribes'
Disarming**

NC1105144993 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 5 May 93
p 6

[Report on an interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs, by Muhammad Mustafa; place and date not given]

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, Yemeni minister of state for foreign affairs, has denied reports that the recent elections to the Yemeni House of Representatives were rigged.

In an exclusive interview with AL-AHRAM, Dr. al-Dali stressed that the elections were held in a democratic atmosphere in which various political forces took part, adding that the elections represented a historic turning point and the first step toward building the modern state following the unity of the two Yemens in May 1990.

On the shape of the next coalition government in Yemen following the elections, Dr. al-Dali noted that the two ruling parties—the General People's Congress [GPC] led by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] led by Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid—are inclined toward expanding the ruling coalition with the aim of forming a broadly based government that represents all the political forces in order to create the climate for stability and continuity for as long as possible. This is to be done to be able to confront the major challenge facing Yemen now, namely the implementation of the comprehensive development plan for modernizing society. He said that the Islamic-leaning Yemeni Grouping for Reform might join the new government coalition with the GPC and the YSP.

On the priorities of the new House of Representatives, Dr. al-Dali said: Completing the unity process, ending the residue of the pre-unity divisions—and this includes uniting the army—and eliminating dual establishments will be the top priorities on the agenda of the House of Representatives in addition to the issues of economic development and strengthening Yemen's foreign relations, particularly with neighboring and fraternal countries. The Yemeni Government some time ago started to remove the obstacles between it and neighboring countries. An example of this was the signing of the agreement on the demarcation of the borders with the Sultanate of Oman and the negotiations to resolve the border issue with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia within the framework of the technical committee on Yemeni-Saudi borders. The committee had held four rounds of talks, and the fifth one will be held in Sanaa after agreement is reached as to the date.

About periodic reports on the emigration of Yemen's Jews to Israel, the Yemeni minister of state for foreign affairs said: The number of Yemeni Jews is around 1,000. They are citizens with all the rights guaranteed by the constitution, including the right to travel and return to Yemen at any time.

Regarding the phenomenon of violence that recently prevailed, al-Dali said: There are groups practicing political terrorism in Yemen. They are financed from abroad and their objective is to undermine the country's stability and security and thwart Yemen's development plan. This terrorism is rejected by religion, people, and officials. As to the demonstrations and strikes that take a violent turn, they are caused by the economic suffering of the people. The state is seeking to alleviate this suffering through a comprehensive development plan, encouragement of the private sector, and doing away with the public sector companies that have repeatedly proved to be a failure.

At the conclusion of the interview, the Yemeni minister denied that there is a plan to disarm the tribes, stressing that the tribes in Yemen are a social reality and their participation in political life is necessary. He said that the tribes are not opposed to the democratic process and had even taken part in the elections and did not oppose them. He added that the tribes will give up their weapons when the central government succeeds in extending its authority to all areas.

**Saudi Minister Conveys Message to Salih,
Departs**

JN1105134793 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and Presidential Council Vice Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid have received Saudi Education Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, who arrived in Sanaa today.

Al-Khuwaytir conveyed a message to the president from his brother Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. The message dealt with fraternal bilateral relations and the experts committee's talks on the Yemeni-Saudi border.

During the meeting, the Saudi minister extended congratulations on the success of the 27 April general elections conducted in our country. The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and issues of concern to the Arab and Islamic nations.

Attending the meeting were Education Minister Muhammad al-Ja'ifi and Saudi Ambassador in Sanaa 'Ali al-Qutaybi.

The Saudi education minister left Sanaa at the end of his visit to our country.

Kuwaiti Claims on Bush Assassination Attempt Derided

JN1205081793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT
12 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 12 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-IRAQ refutes the claims promoted by the U.S. Administration and the al-Sabah regime that they unearthed an Iraqi attempt to assassinate Bush during his visit to Kuwait.

In an article contributed by 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin and published today, the paper adds: Assassination is not a characteristic trait of the mujahidin who uphold principles. It is a trait of U.S. political leaders who did not hesitate to assassinate their President Kennedy.

The paper wonders why Iraq would attempt to assassinate Bush. The paper argues that Bush killed himself when he got entangled in leading the aggression against Iraq. We are not people given to assassinating the dead, nor are we people who like to mutilate dead bodies, the paper adds. Bush is a dead body, killed by events. He is not worth several kilograms of explosives, the paper contends.

Elaborating on the issue, 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin says: The fact as I see it is that they learned of a civilian project or civilian projects that would benefit the Iraqi people or meet a significant portion of their needs and mitigate the impact of the embargo, so they decided to scuttle such a project or projects under the pretext of avenging a conspiracy targeting Bush. They fabricated this crisis to achieve this objective.

Muhsin adds: Furthermore, the Kuwaiti rulers have been anxiously looking for an opportunity to show their slavery. Right now, they can say that they have a government, a police force, and detectives; and also that they are still threatened by Iraq. This will remain an obsession plaguing them. I doubt that they could ever free themselves of panic or halt preparations for a speedy escape—one that would avoid the shortcomings experienced during the first escape.

'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin says that life is a predicament to whoever fails to understand it, to whoever fails to be active in it, and also to whoever fails to handle it properly.

Muhsin stresses that no matter what the consequences, we will not tremble with fear of bullets or rocket attacks. He notes that the smallest Iraqi children could be suffering from medicine and milk shortages. However, he adds, they are not lacking in courage, because they have learned to play with bullets instead of marbles.

Muhsin underscores the fact that no matter what they do, they could not do more than they did two years ago. [Words indistinct] the recurring aggression [on 17 January 1993]. He adds: If they choose to engage in an adventure, then the world will get to know them better as evildoers, and to know where true democracy lies and

where human rights are truly safeguarded. The world will also get to know Iraq's virtues, which have rendered it a target of vicious parties, better. Moreover, our people will resist and emerge victorious, as they did before. They will be proud of themselves more than ever. Meanwhile, they will perform their prayers on time.

Muhsin concludes by saying: No woman will leave her kitchen, nor will any peasant be distracted from his high threshing floor this year to look at ravens in the sky. Nor will any young man cancel a date with his sweetheart on the lawn. People will not be deterred from following the news of football tournaments. We will continue to lead normal lives, to work, to love, and to ridicule our enemies. Indeed, we will trample all adventurers under foot. Let them just try.

Jordanian Stand on Annulled Banknote Praised

JN1205093793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT
12 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 12 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH commends the true pan-Arab position Jordan has taken toward Iraq's decision to withdraw from circulation a certain denomination of Iraqi banknotes, noting that Jordan has shown itself, as usual, to be a courageous country espousing courageous positions.

In an article published today, AL-THAWRAH, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party, adds: Fraternal Jordan—its leadership and people—does not need a letter of commendation attesting to its noble Arabism, pan-Arab positions, and firmness in times of crisis to uphold and vindicate right.

The paper goes on to say: Jordan is greater than all that is being said or could be said about it. Yet, it still deserves to be thanked immensely for its steadfastness, and also for exposing those who are trading in homelands and Arab blood. Jordan is a country opposed to bargaining and opposed to aggression or harmful acts against its brothers, because it is aware of the conspiracies being hatched against the Arab nation in general, and Iraq, the nation's strategic depth, in particular.

AL-THAWRAH says: The honorable position the official and media apparatus in fraternal Jordan have taken toward the brazen machinations and designs hatched by the Hafar al-Batin allies has epitomized faith in the Arab cause, which is being targeted by injustice and tyrannical powers, as well as a high degree of awareness of the role Jordan has been playing to confront the hostile alliance and its malicious objectives, which aim to drive a wedge between the sons of the same and one Arab people and to build walls of hatred between them.

The paper affirms that the official and popular stand taken by the Jordanian media apparatus and writers has thwarted the attempts of these wagers, defeated their losing bets, and crushed once and for all the new chapter in the conspiracy aimed at destroying the Iraqi economy. Thus, the paper maintains, speculators who hoarded

millions, using the plight and misery of the steadfast Iraqi people found themselves at a loss, not knowing what to do.

AL-THAWRAH underscores the fact that leadership's decision to withdraw from circulation the Swiss-printed 25-dinar banknote is a legitimate act of self-defense aimed at protecting the country's sovereignty and national economy in the face of a real starvation and genocide campaign targeting all Iraqi people. Our people, the paper says, have unanimously blessed the decision issued in this regard by the Revolution Command Council. By the same token, our people salute fraternal Jordan for its noble position, and also for its strong awareness of the schemes and designs hatched by enemies and of the objectives they seek to achieve.

Plan To Break Embargo, Fly Pilgrims to Hajj Rumored

JN1105142593 Amman AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic
11 May 93 p 1

["Exclusive"]

[Text] Baghdad—Informed sources in Baghdad have said that the Iraqi Government intends to break the unjust air embargo imposed on Iraq during the next hajj season by transporting Iraqi pilgrims to Saudi Arabia on Iraqi Airways planes.

These sources added that this Iraqi action will embarrass the Saudi regime in front of the Islamic world on the one hand, and the West on the other, because the Islamic world will obviously sympathize with the Iraqi pilgrims and will not view Saudi Arabia as a neutral party if it resorts to violence in responding to the Iraqi step. The United States and the West will put greater pressure on Saudi Arabia to prevent Iraqi planes from entering its airspace. These sources do not rule out that Saudi Arabia may officially, but secretly, ask the United States to use its warplanes to prevent Iraqi passenger planes from entering Saudi airspace. Riyadh will thus avoid embarrassment in the eyes of the Islamic world.

These sources told us that Baghdad will absolutely not go back on this step this year, and that it urges Libya to join Iraq in breaking the air embargo by transporting Libyan pilgrims to the holy land aboard Libyan aircraft.

Baghdad has publicly called for a large-scale Arab-Islamic campaign to transport Iraqi and Libyan pilgrims to the holy land aboard Iraqi and Libyan planes to expedite the breaking of the unjust embargo imposed on the two countries. This call was one of the recommendations emphasized by the Iraqis in the final political statement issued by the Arab Labor Conference in solidarity with the workers and people of Iraq, Palestine, and the Libyan Jamahiriyah, which was held in Baghdad at the end of last month.

In another development, eyewitnesses stressed that Iraq is suffering from shortages of wheat, sugar, baby milk,

and medicine. The Iraqis, however, have succeeded in largely rationalizing the use of wheat and sugar to alleviate the effects of the unjust embargo. All confectionaries remain closed and sugar is not being used in the making of carbonated beverages. As for medicine, the Iraqis are actually denied Western-made medicine despite the fact that they are formally exempted under the terms of the embargo.

The Iraqis hope their next battle to violate the air embargo during the next hajj season will mark the beginning of other steps aimed at gradually breaking the embargo in all areas.

It is worth noting that the presence of Iraqi warplanes was an important part of the recent military parades in Iraq on the occasion of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's birthday.

Paper Ridicules Egyptian Fears of 'Conspiracy'

JN1105130893 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT
11 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 11, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily, organ of the Ministry of Defence, ridiculed the Egyptian regime's claims that a conspiracy was being hatched against it.

The daily said this regime should realize first that this time it was the one to blame for this conspiracy when it made mistakes in calculations and sought the West's help, forgetful of the nation's needs.

It added that the Egyptian regime knew more than anyone else that Egypt's role could not be restored through dubious connections and cheap maneuvering over the nation's issues, adding that the regime might have realized that it had lost its role because of its participation in the 30-state aggression against Iraq.

The daily stressed that he who followed up the simplest approaches to the economic policy was well aware of the fact that the Egyptian society was suffering under the policy pursued by the ruling regime in Egypt which held the Egyptian capabilities hostage to the U.S.-backed market economy.

Daily Warns Against Israeli Plans To Control Arab Waters

JN0905135493 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT
9 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 9, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily, organ of Iraqi Defence Ministry has warned the Arab nation against the danger of committing the Arab side to the settlement negotiations to Israel's conditions pertaining to Arab water security.

The daily has said in a report today that the question of controlling Arab waters is an old stanchion on which the Zionist ideology depended in its various proposals and

considered it an essential condition for the establishment of big Israel, the slogan of which is from the Nile to the Euphrates.

The daily has focused on the question of water as one of the most dangerous weapons which Zionism has planned for fighting the Arabs with, saying "we find that it is apparent even on Israel's flag which carries two parallel lines denoting the Nile and the Euphrates."

AL-QADISIYAH daily has also drawn the attention to a sure matter that should not be overlooked by any of the Arabs in dealing with issues of comprehensive national security, that is that the water security is not a secondary part of the comprehensive national security bombs but rather one of the significant cornerstones for consolidating that concept.

It has pointed out in this respect that around 70 per cent of the Arab homeland water resources are situated beyond its national borders the matter of which renders Arab sovereignty on them incomplete and threatened and always positioned in the sphere of the enemies investment of them in the channels of threat, extortion and political pressure.

AL-QADISIYAH daily has also cast lights on Israel's moves for investing this state in favour on instruments of its racial conflict against the Arabs and said that it continues endeavour and coordination with the Turkish Government for building gigantic pipelines for carrying the Euphrates River waters from Turkey to occupied Palestine across the Mediterranean at the expense of the shares of Iraq and Syria of this river's waters.

AL-QADISIYAH has also pointed to Israel's domination on major parts of Jordan River waters and its other projects for drawing waters of Litani River in Lebanon and said that the strategic alliance which Tel Aviv establishes with Ethiopia and their development of distinguished economic and military relations, represented a dangerous instrument of pressure on Egypt and Sudan which depend on water's of the Nile springing from Ethiopia.

It has stressed that the strongest Zionist danger against the Arabs in future would be that of Israel's domination on water resources which feed the Arab homeland so that the course of the Arab-Zionist conflict would take the image of water wars through besieging the Arabs with water and threatening them in its resources.

The daily has also touched on the Israeli side efforts at Washington negotiations for imposing proposals and conditions related to the Zionists right to partaking of the Arabs' water resources and said those conditions had become the refrain for bringing the negotiations to success and reaching the alleged peace with the Arabs.

The Iraqi daily has warned the Arab parties against the game of the American pressures for forcing them to accept those conditions and said that Washington had actually practised pressures on the Arab delegations

participating in the negotiations on the necessity of resolving decisively the problem of waters with Israel and advised them to overlook Israel's behaviour with regard to the question of waters.

The daily has urged the Arab nation to adopt a responsible stand versus that issue of waters which threaten future and destiny of the Arab generations and to stand up to fighting the foreign influence in this serious element of cornerstones of the Arab national security.

Talks Held With Visiting Bulgarian Parliamentarians

JN0505191893 Baghdad INA in English 1750 GMT
5 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 5 (INA)—Iraq and Bulgaria began here today parliamentary talks to tackle avenues of promoting relations between the two countries' peoples.

The two sides reviewed the current regional and international situations, the inequitable blockade imposed on Iraq as well as issues of common interest.

The Iraqi side was led by Safa' Salih al-'Umar, chairman of the Arab and International Relations Committee at the National Assembly (parliament), while the Bulgarian side was led by Zakhari Zakhariyev, the Socialist Party member of parliament.

Parliamentarians on Bilateral Ties

JN0905135693 Baghdad INA in English 1300 GMT
9 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 9. INA—Head of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Bulgarian Socialist Party Zakhari Zakhariyev said Bulgaria and Iraq have to work seriously for reviving and boosting their friendly relations.

Zakhariyev, who is heading a Bulgarian parliamentary delegation currently on a visit to Iraq, said Bulgaria and Iraq have enjoyed a long record of deeply-rooted, historic relations, adding "Hence, the two countries have to work for reviving these relations following a rupture of almost two years."

The two countries, furthermore, have to find and open new prospects and coin new methods in the light of the new world order and recent developments in the international arena to help boost relations, Mr. Zakhariyev told this reporter.

He added, "We as parliamentarians, representatives of the people's desire and inspirations, have a set of goals to attain in this regard.

Mr. Zakhariyev went on to say that the delegation held talks with a number of Iraqi officials on the best means of enhancing cooperation in all domains especially under the current difficult circumstances emanating from the on-going economic sanctions clamped on Iraq, noting that "We will not permit an attempt to isolate the Iraqi people from the Bulgarian."

He added that despite the critical circumstances and the tragic situation Iraq is currently witnessing, the Iraqi Government and people cherish hope for the best and an optimistic view of the future. They have a great and unabated will to go on.

He added that despite the recent rupture in Bulgarian-Iraq relations, Bulgarian still retains the same distinguished position in the eyes of the Iraqi people.

Mr. Zakhariyev expressed appreciation of the distinguished outcome of the nation-wide post-war drive launched by Iraqis to rebuild what have been destroyed by the U.S.-allied bombings during the war in 1991.

"I have been impressed with the miracles accomplished by Iraqis in the nation-wide reconstruction drive in spite of the hardships and difficulties ensuing from the over two-year embargo clamped on the country", said Mr. Zakhariyev.

"This is my second visit to Iraq. My first visit was in 1988," he said, noting that "Baghdad gains special beauty and magnificence. The visitor can see serious and assiduous work in all domains to rebuild the country, reconstruct the economy and confront and foil the embargo."

He elaborated that Iraqis are currently engaged in an assiduous work to rebuild damaged facilities in fields of industry, agriculture and construction.

As regards sanctions, Mr. Zakhariyev said the economic embargo has so far lost all its legal and moral justification, since Iraq has implemented all UN Security Council resolutions, adding "it is high-time to permit Iraq to export oil."

He added that some countries tried to isolate Iraq, and this has nothing to do with democracy they always boast of. "Sanctions are a two-edged weapon, because their effects will not be confined to Iraq but they will spread to cover peoples of the world," said Mr. Zakhariyev.

Citing an example, Mr. Zakhariyev said that despite the fact that Bulgaria has concluded deals with Iraq and that it has solid commercial and economic relations with Iraq, it cannot carry out these deals and contracts because of the embargo. Hence this will cause a great loss to Bulgaria.

In the meantime, member of the delegation and speaker of the parliamentary bloc of Rights and Freedom Movement Iran Platchev said that Bulgarian-Iraqi relations are based on mutual respect, noting that these relations will witness a bloom in the near future.

He added that what is important now is to act swiftly for lifting the embargo, saying "Bulgaria and Iraq have to unify their efforts and work jointly towards lifting the embargo."

As a preliminary step, Bulgaria and Iraq have to work for lifting the blockade on food and medicine and then work for granting Iraq permission to resume oil export, said Platchev.

The main aim behind our current visit to Iraq is to maintain and enhance contacts and relations between the two countries to help reactivate the joint committee for economic cooperation, said Platchev.

Ramadan Confers With Visiting Sudanese Minister

JN0705162893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT
7 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 7 May (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, last night received Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, member of the National Salvation Front and culture and information minister in Sudan.

Ramadan remarked to the Sudanese minister that bilateral relations were making strides in various areas, and expressed the hope that they will inspire more developed intra-Arab ties and increased Arab solidarity.

Mr. Sulayman applauded the courageous leadership of President Saddam Husayn and his principled stands on behalf of the Arab nation so that it may remain the wellspring of civilization and principles. He stated that Iraq will remain a mecca for Arabs who take pride in the steadfastness and courage of the country's people and their leader.

The meeting was attended by Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, minister of culture and information, and the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad.

'Aziz Reiterates Call To End 'Inequitable Blockade'

JN1005140493 Baghdad INA in English 1340 GMT
10 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 10, INA—Deputy Premier Tariq 'Aziz received today the delegation of the Chaldean Union in the United States chaired by Mr. Salman Youna, chairman of the union.

The meeting dealt with effects resulting from the inequitable blockade imposed on the people of Iraq by the U.S. and its Western allies.

Mr. 'Aziz called upon the world public opinion and the humanitarian organizations all over the world to play their effective role to bring an end to this blockade.

For his part, Mr. Youna explained efforts exerted by the union on the American arena pertaining to lifting the unjust economic sanctions.

Assembly Approves Creation of Human Rights Committee

JN0805193893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1851 GMT
8 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 8 May (INA)—During its session today, the Iraqi National Assembly approved the creation of a permanent human rights committee.

The endorsement of this committee is in line with the principles approved by the Iraqi Constitution with regard to citizens' basic rights.

In 1991, the Assembly discussed the possibility of establishing such a committee. However, the formation of such a committee was put off in light of the continued aggression against Iraq.

Responsible sources in the Assembly said that the committee will be tasked with supervising the situation of human rights in Iraq and proposing required amendments to ensure that domestic legislation is in line with the UN Human Rights Convention. The committee will follow developments in this regard and will point out violations of such rights at home and abroad when necessary and as required by Iraq's national interests.

Al-Zubaydi Urges Efforts To Make Harvest Success

JN1105040493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, member of the Revolution Command Council, prime minister, and chairman of the Higher Harvesting and Marketing Committee, has relayed the greetings of leader President Saddam Husayn to the residents of the Diyala Governorate, as well as his wishes of continued pride and a decent living for them in the course of their efforts to build a bright future.

While chairing an expanded seminar held by the Harvesting and Marketing Committee in the Diyala Governorate today, the prime minister said: The difficult phase being experienced by Iraq and the attempts of the U.S.-led tyrannical powers to undermine the homeland's sovereignty and the dignity of its population require all people to unleash all potentials and capabilities and work day and night to make the campaign of harvesting wheat and barley on time a success so as to secure bread for our steadfast and mujahid people and thwart the conspiracy of the unfair embargo imposed on our country.

At the conclusion of his visit to the governorate, during which he was accompanied by Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and Agriculture and Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh, the prime minister inspected the manual harvesting campaign currently under way in the Subdistrict of Kan'an in the District of Ba'qubah, as well as the efforts being made to complete this campaign on time in order to render the entire campaign a success.

The prime minister, accompanied by Diyala Governor Tu'mah Du'ayyif Qitan, inspected the works currently under way to develop the Subdistrict of Bani Sa'd being carried out by the governorate using the Iraqi style of self-reliance, depending on the governorate's intrinsic resources.

Earlier, Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi had discussed with the Diyala governor, during a meeting held at the governorate, the services rendered to citizens as part of the noble gestures made to the residents of the governorate by leader President Saddam Husayn. They also discussed the means of promoting these services. Moreover, the prime minister listened to a briefing given by the governor on the nature of the works and projects being currently implemented and also on the efforts being made to accomplish them in a manner that would ensure the rendering of the best possible services to the residents of the governorate.

Reportage on Constitutional Crisis, Negotiations

Rabin Offers 'Temporary Solution'

TA1105134193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1307
GMT 11 May 93

[Telephone conversation between Shim'on Sheves, Prime Minister's Office director general and party affairs correspondent Sheli Yehimovich at the Knesset studio—live]

[Excerpts] [Yehimovich] The prime minister has given Meretz several assurances. Shim'on Sheves, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, is now on the line, and he will read us a letter detailing Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's promises to Meretz, which is meeting at this very moment. [passage omitted]

[Sheves] A few minutes ago, or rather an hour ago, the prime minister wrote a letter addressed to Ministers Shulamit Aloni, Ya'ir Tzaban, Amnon Rubinstein, and Yosi Sarid, which details his assurances to Meretz regarding the proposed temporary solution of the crisis:

1. After Ministers Shulamit Aloni and Arye Der'i deposit their portfolios with me in accordance with clause 17A of the Basic Law: The Government, they will remain ministers until 24 May 1993.

2. Every effort to resolve the crisis will be made by that date, and the solution will be acceptable to Meretz and enable the government to continue its activity.

3. If no solution acceptable to Meretz is found, my proposal of 10 May 93 will remain valid even if it leads to a situation in which the government will be initially composed of 61 Knesset [MK's] members.

This was the text of the letter.

[Yehimovich] Does it mean that if no solution is found, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will have tried to abstain from expanding the coalition?

[Sheves] His letter says that if no solution acceptable to Meretz—and naturally to SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], too—is found during those two weeks, the government will at first be composed of 61 MK's, who make up a buffer bloc. If the situation remains unresolved, an attempt will then be made to expand the coalition in a way that will be acceptable to the partners. [passage omitted]

Meretz Accepts Rabin Offer

TA1105144993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in English 1430 GMT 11 May 93

[Interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid by Steve Leibowitz in the Knesset "following the cabinet session"—live]

[Text] [Leibowitz] Here is Minister Sarid to give us some details about the arrangement which has been arranged. Mr. Sarid, we are on live on IBA news television. Sir,

could you give me some explanation what is the arrangement which has been reached?

[Sarid] The arrangement is that the solution for the government crisis will be reached during the next week, that is to say, we still have seven days ahead to find an appropriate solution.

[Leibowitz] Now Sir, earlier Meretz rejected the notion of a two week hiatus in order to find a solution. Why have you now agreed to one week?

[Sarid] Because, frankly speaking, we didn't have any other choice to decide today, that is to say, to have a government crisis at the present time. Since we don't have a better government, since we don't have a better coalition, since we don't have better partners in the government, we try and we are making an utmost effort to keep this particular government alive, because as far as peace prospects are concerned there is no better government in Israel.

[Leibowitz] And you are confident that within a week a solution can be found?

[Sarid] Unfortunately I am not confident, but we gave a chance. This is the last chance we can give to this better government.

Meretz 'Ministers Without Portfolios'

TA1105153293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500
GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Minister Der'i has withdrawn his resignation and asked the prime minister to return his letter of resignation. A short time before the resignation went into effect an agreement was reached to postpone the decision by seven days. Attorney General Yosef Harish told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that apparently only next Monday [17 May] will the Knesset be informed about the deposit of the education and interior portfolios with the prime minister. This will mean that Ministers Aloni and Der'i will become ministers without portfolios. The two will remain in this status for one day only, because the seven days for dealing with the crisis will end next Tuesday [18 May].

Prime Minister Rabin told the Meretz ministers that if no solution to their liking is reached within a week, the government will continue functioning with a majority of 61 Knesset Members [MK's].

Minister Sarid said that Meretz remains adamant in its demand that the education portfolio remain in its hands even next week.

The prime minister told the Labor Knesset faction that if it proves necessary, the government should continue operating for a limited period with the support of 61 MK's. Mr. Rabin said the coalition has a buffer bloc, and unless Labor is ready to tell its partners that it can manage without them, it will be impossible to reach a firm partnership in the coalition. Rabin said that none of

the coalition partners should believe that the government cannot exist without it.

Aloni Explains Agreement

TA1105155293 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1440 GMT 11 May 93

[Interview with Education and Culture Minister Shulamit Aloni by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik at the Knesset—live]

[Text] [Sukenik] Good evening from the government floor of the Knesset building. The cabinet meeting ended a few minutes ago. After a day of frantic contacts and of uncertainty, a solution was found. Let us hear the solution from the minister around whom the recent days' events have centered, and who would prefer, I think to stop being the focus of media attention soon. Ms. Aloni, are you still the education minister?

[Aloni] I certainly am, until the Knesset is otherwise advised. The prime minister asked us to help him extend the deadline of the negotiations between the parties, which was to be 1748 [1448 GMT, when Interior Minister Der'i's resignation would have become valid] today. We thought that his request for two more weeks was unreasonable. The prime minister promised us that everything he offered us yesterday—and the media published it—will remain valid unless we accept some other settlement. If neither of these two possibilities materializes, the situation will revert to what it was initially—namely, that I will be again education and culture minister. Therefore, we decided to give the prime minister one week to pursue negotiations. The way we were asked and the arguments he presented made it difficult for us to refuse.

I would like to seize this opportunity to say something. I do not approve of this situation. I think both the reasons and the proceedings are bad, inappropriate. But I want us all to remember that we are a young, a very heterogeneous country. Today's battle was not merely over the education portfolio or over Shulamit Aloni. We are in the midst of a serious battle for the State of Israel's image as a democratic country. Many concepts, such as the substance of democracy, the nature of a pluralistic society, the nature of the State of Israel as a country governed by law, today appear to be thinner than cobweb on which we can hardly stand.

[Sukenik] Is it possible that Meretz will consent to being ousted from the Education and/or the Culture Ministry within the week allotted for the negotiations?

[Aloni] I do not want to answer that. I reject the term ousted, because we have received the prime minister's pledge to give us either the arrangement he promised yesterday....

[Sukenik, interrupting] Under which you will be the communications and culture minister?

[Aloni] Yes, with Meretz retaining the education portfolio. The other option is for me to have the education and culture portfolio back intact. The third possibility is that we will receive an offer we will be unable to refuse. In any event, the decision is entirely up to us.

I would like to say something—and I do not always have as much television time as I do today: This is a surrealistic drama featuring two cultures which are forced to coexist. We want ours to be a modern, law-observing country. There are many areas in which we are forced to be flexible and attentive to their [ultra-Orthodox] views, although we firmly believe that their methods are unacceptable in a modern country governed by law. Their views are not in keeping with the spirit of our laws, or with the Declaration of Independence, or with our concepts about freedom of opinion and freedom of outlook, about tolerance which does not mean fawning or self-deprecation, but rather the right to state and to adamantly fight for one's views, at the same time living together in a society in which every outlook, with the exception of racism and violence, is legitimate.

[Sukenik] Minister Aloni, thank you very much.

Der'i Insists on Surrender of Portfolio

TA1105162893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 May 93

[Interview with Minister Arye Der'i by Nitzan Hen in Der'i's office "following the special cabinet session"—live]

[Excerpts] [Hen] Arye Der'i, you are described as the world champion in political brinkmanship. Are you satisfied with the situation?

[Der'i] Look, it is not a question of being satisfied or not. There was an unpleasant crisis, and we did not solve it, we merely postponed it for a week. This is why I agreed—after consulting with Rabbi Ovadia Yosef—to withdraw my letter of resignation for a week and to serve as minister without portfolio. Mrs. Aloni will also act as minister without portfolio. I cannot tell you with certainty that the crisis will be solved. It is possible that next week the situation will revert to where it stood until several minutes ago. I am very hopeful, however, that through the dialogue which we have already begun—calmly and without fanfare—we will be able to find a fitting portfolio for Meretz and Mrs. Aloni, and that things will turn out well. [passage omitted]

[Hen] Let's be more concrete. What developments do you expect over the next week? Did the prime minister promise you that the next education minister will not be a Meretz member?

[Der'i] No, I cannot go into all the details. Over the next week—through a dialogue between all coalition members—we should find a solution which would leave the education portfolio in the hands of the Labor Party,

while finding a fitting portfolio for Mrs. Aloni, thus enabling Meretz to come out of this satisfied.

[Hen] Let's go back 48 hours. Why did SHAS cause this crisis? Was it Shulamit Aloni's provocations? Perhaps the investigation against Minister Der'i? Or perhaps it was caused by the pressure of the ultra-orthodox street?

[Der'i] Look, you are asking this good-naturedly, and I will answer you as I answered in earlier interviews which I gave today. You are entitled to ask whatever you want, because once I granted you this interview I undertook to answer all questions. Some questions, however, are simply rude. There is absolutely no connection between this crisis and the police investigation. [passage omitted]

Over the last 48 hours we asked the prime minister to fulfill his promise to replace Minister Aloni in the Education Ministry. The prime minister did not fulfill his promise and this is what caused my resignation. During these 48 hours various compromise proposals were raised. One proposal was that Minister Rubinstein would be education minister and that Minister Aloni remain culture minister, but we rejected this proposal. Today we accepted the proposal that I and Mrs. Aloni serve as ministers without portfolios and that a solution be found during the next week. To avoid any misunderstandings let me stress, however, that the only solution acceptable to us—and I want to be absolutely clear on this point—is that the education and culture portfolio must be in the hands of the Labor Party, while finding a fitting solution of another senior portfolio for Mrs. Aloni and Meretz, as they are entitled to receive according to their power. This is the only solution which will be acceptable to everybody. [passage omitted]

Rabin Discusses Coalition Expansion

TA1105165093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Eli Dayan, the coalition chairman, has said that contacts with Agudat Yisra'el [a UTJ component] toward expanding the coalition will be launched tonight. MK Avraham Shapira from Agudat Yisra'el told our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld that he does not expect United Torah Jewry [UTJ] to split over negotiations on his party's joining the coalition, since Rabbis Schach and Gur, the patrons of the party's two components, agree on the issue.

And indeed, a meeting between MK Shapira and the prime minister, which dealt with the possibility of expanding the coalition in the course of this week, has just ended. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 11 May carries a live telephone interview with MK Shapira following his meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Shapira says: "The prime minister invited the UTJ to hold talks. He asked me to advise my party of this and to set a time for a meeting, and I will indeed do so."]

After the meeting, Shapira said he intended to meet with Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan in a bid to explore the possibility of co-opting Tzomet into the move. MK Refa'el Eytan told our correspondent Hayim Hecht, however, that negotiations were out of the question at this point. He asserted that everything, including the government guidelines, would have to be discussed from the start.

The SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Executive is now convening in Minister Der'i's office to plan the party's moves in the coming week. Deputy Minister Moshe Maya has told our correspondent Gil Litman that SHAS will veto Meretz' receiving the education portfolio in any event.

Coalition With Arab, Leftists Considered

TA1105185993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 May 93

[Excerpt] The possibility that the government's parliamentary support will shrink to only 61 votes sent Minister Hayim Ramon to talks with the five Knesset members [MK's] of HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] and the Arab Democratic Party [ADP] this afternoon. Knesset correspondent Ya'akov Ahime'ir reports:

[Begin recording] [Ahime'ir] To guarantee the five MK's continued support for the government, Minister Ramon invited the two parties—ADASH and the ADP—to his Knesset office. Will they pose demands in exchange for their support?

[ADP MK Darawshah] We have put forward no demands. If Rabin thinks there is room for the ADP inside the coalition, he will have to talk to us, but we have not demanded it.

[Ahime'ir] Why?

[Darawshah] Because we still see ourselves as part of the buffer bloc, which has proven its worth, and we believe that peace is more important than Knesset seats.

[Ahime'ir] The need to broaden the coalition is becoming even more acute.

[Ramon] Some parties which support the government and its peace policy will be definitely a target for efforts to expand the coalition if SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] does indeed quit. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 11 May reports that "Likud Chairman MK Binyamin Netanyahu said tonight that the coalition crisis cannot be whitewashed and that there is a profound confidence crisis between the public and the government" and carries the following recorded comments by Netanyahu: "I believe there is one thing Rabin must do: He must return to the voter. He had great difficulty conducting the crucial negotiations on the

future of the country even before the crisis, when he had the majority of one vote only. Now, with the crisis on his hands, when it is unclear whether he has a majority at all, with a minority government dependent on the backing of five PLO-supporting MK's, the only thing he can do—if he is faithful to his program, if he is faithful to his concept of duty—is return the mandate the people gave him, to call new elections. Whitewashing will not do.”]

Likud Chairman on ‘Crisis’

TA1105191893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Likud Chairman Knesset Member [MK] Binyamin Netanyahu said tonight that the coalition crisis cannot be whitewashed, and that there is a profound confidence crisis between the public and the government.

[Begin Netanyahu recording] I believe there is one thing Mr. Rabin has to do: He must go back to the voter. He had great difficulty conducting the crucial negotiations on the future of the country even before the crisis, when he had the majority of one vote only. Now, with the crisis on his hands, when it is unclear whether he has a majority at all, with a minority government dependent on the backing of five PLO-supporting MK's, the only thing he can do—if he is faithful to his program, if he is faithful to his concept of duty—is return the mandate the people gave him, to call new elections. Whitewashing will not do. [end recording]

Portfolios Not Deposited With Rabin

TA1205082393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin last night began contacts to expand the coalition. The education and interior portfolios apparently will not be deposited with Rabin.

The Knesset speaker ruled that the plenum debate on the cabinet's announcement regarding this matter would not be held until 19 May, which falls after the week-long breathing space the prime minister managed to gain in the coalition crisis.

The speaker, Labor Knesset Member [MK] Shevah Weiss, acceded to the Likud's request not to hold the vote next Monday, because on that day, its Knesset members would be attending the party's conference on the Golan Heights.

Meretz yesterday declared that the coalition crisis would not be resolved unless it retained responsibility for the education portfolio.

Peres Denies Rabin Appeal

TA1205095993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 12 May 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Razi Barqay on the “Its All Talk” program—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Barqay] You realize that a situation may arise in which you will be asked to make a personal sacrifice in order to maintain the coalition's integrity.

[Peres] We will cross that bridge when we get to it.

[Barqay] But will you be prepared to give up the Foreign Ministry?

[Peres] Look, I am dealing with the issue most central to our lives. What interests me solely is the peace process, nothing else interests or attracts me.

[Barqay] Let me repeat my question. Does that mean that you want to remain at the Foreign Ministry?

[Peres] I will not discuss any cabinet reshuffle with you on your radio program. I have no such intention.

[Barqay] Let me at least ask you whether Mr. Rabin approached you with the question whether you would be prepared....

[Peres] There was no appeal to me.

[Barqay] So there has been no appeal so far from the prime minister?

[Peres] No. [passage omitted]

[Barqay] You said earlier that the peace process was the most important issue.

[Peres] Definitely.

[Barqay] Has there been any good news from Washington this week?

[Peres] Last minute efforts are currently under way to agree on some kind of statement. We do not have much time, and I hope that we will manage to achieve this over the remaining two or three days.

[Barqay] Did you read President al-Asad's interview in THE NEW YORK TIMES?

[Peres] Yes.

[Barqay] What is your reaction?

[Peres] I welcome the tone, which is more positive. This was perhaps the most positive tone he has ever conveyed in an interview. However, as far as the contents go, there was nothing particularly sensational there.

[Barqay] So you are saying that for the time being it is all tone but no content?

[Peres] But the tone is also of content.

[Barqay] What is the next stage, Mr. Peres?

[Peres] First of all, we have to see what happens when this round of talks is concluded. I hope that the next round will resume at the beginning of June.

[Barqay] Will we publish a joint statement of principles by the end of this week?

[Peres] We are making supreme efforts to this end; however, there is no certainty yet.

[Barqay] Thank you and good morning, Foreign Minister Peres.

Reportage on Visit of Ethiopian Prime Minister

Premier Arrives 9 May

TA0905045493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Ethiopia's prime minister, Tamirat Layne, has arrived in Israel on a four-day visit. It is the first official visit by an Ethiopian leader since diplomatic relations were established in October 1989. Prime Minister Layne is due to sign economic and agricultural agreements with Prime Minister Rabin. His talks in Israel are also expected to include the question of the Falash-Mura, the Ethiopian Jews who converted out of the faith, but now want to emigrate to Israel.

Rabin, Layne Agree on Cooperation

TA1005081293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 May 93 p A4

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] Israel has decided to grant Ethiopia priority aid in numerous spheres, and Ethiopia has promised to strive toward full political and diplomatic cooperation with Israel and to support Israel in international forums. This was stated in a meeting Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held yesterday with Ethiopian Prime Minister Tamirat Layne, as he launched his official visit to Israel.

It was agreed in the meeting that Israel will help Ethiopia set up agricultural farms and systems of health, housing, education, culture, science, technology, and tourism. The number of grants for Ethiopian agriculture students taking courses in Israel will be doubled this year.

It was decided that Israeli medical experts will be sent on short missions to Ethiopia to help in vital areas and that seminars and workshops for Ethiopian tourism officials will be held here. It was further decided that the two countries will exchange scientists.

The Ethiopian prime minister was given a state reception at the Rose Garden opposite the Knesset building in Jerusalem, with Prime Minister Rabin, ministers, and public figures attending.

Layne was accompanied by three of his ministers: the foreign, trade, and tourism ministers.

In his welcoming address, Rabin thanked Ethiopia for permitting Jews to emigrate to Israel. "This is the second visit to Israel by an Ethiopian head of state. The first was held 2,000 years ago, when the Queen of Sheba visited King Solomon," Rabin said.

The Ethiopian prime minister said that his visit to Israel is a stepping stone in the relationship between the two countries. He expressed his hope for closer ties and cooperation between the countries, adding that there is room for improvement even between friends and that this, in fact, is the goal of his visit.

The Ethiopian prime minister said his country has entered a new era of democratization, amity with foreign countries, peace, and development. [passage omitted]

Peres Meets Layne, Accepts Invitation

TA1105063093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] The visiting Ethiopian premier has restated his government's position on the immigration of Falash-Mura to Israel. Prime Minister Tamirat Layne said Ethiopia is not opposed to the exit of the Jewish converts to Christianity, so long as this is done on an individual basis and not a mass exodus. The Ethiopian head of state spoke after a meeting in Jerusalem last night with Foreign Minister Peres.

The two agreed that Israeli experts would go to Ethiopia to set up an agricultural center to demonstrate new farming techniques. Foreign Minister Peres also accepted an invitation to visit Ethiopia.

Defense Ministry Head Leaves for United States

TA1105172493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri has left for the United States, where he will attend the seasonal talks on the two countries' defense ties and strategic cooperation.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe notes that 'Ivri is accompanied by Reserves Brigadier General Yequiti'el Mor, who is in charge of foreign relations at the Defense Ministry.

Findings of UNDP Report on Territories Disputed

TA1105102093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
11 May 93 pp A1, A8

["Exclusive" report from New York by Shlomo Shamir]

[Excerpts] The economic distress of the Palestinian population in the territories has increased over the past five years and "the living conditions of the residents have significantly deteriorated." This is stated in a special report by the Economic Development Agency of the UN Development Program [UNDP] published in New York yesterday. [passage omitted]

In response, Israel's UN mission yesterday distributed official data about the state of the economy, income, and unemployment in the territories that contradicts some of the data in the UN report.

According to a Central Bureau of Statistics [CBS] report, per capita annual income in the territories stood at \$2,861 in 1991 compared with \$2,431 in 1987. The CBS data indicate that in 1992, the number of unemployed stood at 5 percent of the work force in the West Bank and only 3 percent in the Gaza Strip.

According to the CBS estimates, gross domestic product in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank rose by an annual rate of 8-9 percent in 1991 and 1992. In 1990, per capita gross national product stood at \$2,443 in the West Bank and \$1,663 in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli UN mission communique indicates that statements in the UN report regarding health conditions in the territories are partly untrue. The UN report makes no reference to the eradication of illnesses such as tuberculosis in the territories. Furthermore, there has been a significant drop in infant mortality, from 68 of every 1,000 births in 1970 to 62 of every 1,000 births in 1991. It was further reported that new, modern wards have been opened in regional hospitals and access to medical treatment in Israel, in cases where it is needed, has been facilitated.

Six 'Terrorists' Killed Crossing Into Egypt

TA1205050093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400
GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Six terrorists have been killed in two separate incidents in the area of the Israeli-Egyptian border. Details from our defense correspondent Alan Ben-'Ami.

The intensive manhunt for wanted gunmen since the territories were closed off has pushed a number of them to try and escape across the borders, to Egypt or to Jordan, over the past several weeks. Close to two dozen men, individually or in small groups, have succeeded. Most have fled from the Gaza Strip, heading for the nearby, mostly unfenced border with Egypt. As a result, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has stepped up its patrols

along the open desert frontier, with the result, announced late last night, that six men have been killed trying to slip across into Egypt in the past four days. The first clash was very early on Saturday morning [8 May]. The IDF spokesman says three men were spotted by an IDF patrol in the Mt. Qeren area, along the Israeli-Egyptian border. The patrol gave chase, and in a close-quarter clash, shot and killed the gang after a grenade was thrown at the soldiers. Another grenade and a knife were found with the men. In addition to the grenades, they were also carrying various papers, and a quantity of U.S. dollars and Egyptian pounds. The three have been identified as wanted members of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam armed wing of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] organization, all who have carried out attacks on soldiers and civilians.

Three other men were killed on Monday night [10 May], when an Army patrol caught up with them as they tried to cross the border into Egypt. The IDF statement said no Israelis were hurt in either encounter, and the second gang were carrying Egyptian and Israeli money, and a Koran. But the IDF statement did not say if they had any weapons. One of the three has been identified as a member of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam gang, who had been on the wanted list for some time for armed attacks on soldiers. It is believed the other two were also al-Qassam gang members, and efforts to identify them are continuing.

Mukhtar Shot; Youth Killed in Gaza Strip

TA1205084393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800
GMT 12 May 93

[Text] In the Ramallah market this morning, a masked man shot the mukhtar of the neighboring village of Baytin. The incident was witnessed by passersby. The mukhtar was seriously injured and taken to hospital. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the shooting apparently came against the background of suspicion that the mukhtar was cooperating with the Israeli authorities. A manhunt has been launched to capture the assailant.

A three-day strike was declared this morning in the Gaza Strip in mourning over the deaths of the members of the Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] 'Izz-al-din al-Qassam squad in clashes with the security forces near the Egyptian border. Black flags were flown from the mosques. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a curfew was placed on the Jabalyah refugee camp, where one of the squad members lived. The man had been wanted by the authorities for a long time for having participated in serious attacks against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers.

A young man was fatally shot by an IDF soldier in Dayr al-Balah after stones were hurled at observation posts recently set up by the Army. The dead man is 20-year-old Fu'ad Isma'il Timraz.

King Assures Clinton of Commitment to Peace

JN1105115793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
11 May 93 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—His Majesty King Husayn has assured U.S. President Bill Clinton of his commitment to an Arab-Israeli peace settlement and democratisation of Jordan.

In a May 9 letter, a copy of which was provided to the Jordan Times by the Royal Palace, King Husayn told Mr. Clinton that Jordan will consolidate the democratisation programme introduced in 1989.

King Husayn's comments were in response to a May 2 message from Mr. Clinton congratulating the Monarch on the 40th anniversary of his assumption of his constitutional powers.

Following is the text of the King's message to President Clinton:

"I was deeply moved by your warm message of friendship which I received on the 40th anniversary of my assumption of constitutional powers in the service of Jordan.

"I am proud to have been able, together with all Jordanians regardless of their origins, to contribute to progress and stability. Together we have absorbed the negative effects of every disaster that has overtaken this region and affected its peoples. As for the establishment of honourable, lasting and comprehensive Palestinian and Arab-Israeli peace, rest assured Mr. President, that we shall never be found lacking in our sustained efforts to attain these lofty goals for the future of all the children of Abraham.

"Jordan has held a beacon of hope and freedom high throughout the years of darkness. It is natural that we shall never falter in our opposition to tyranny and abuse of basic rights both within our region and global village.

"I too look forward to a genuine rebirth of cooperation between true partners and friends, based on mutual respect between ourselves, our governments and peoples. We are ever proud of upholding the noble ideals and principles that guided the great American founding fathers and our forebears [as published] alike. In the spirit of the leaders of the Arab Renaissance Movement over decades, we shall also strive to realise the legitimate hopes and aspirations of Arabs for a better world."

'Dangerous Relapse' in Talks; U.S., Israel Faulted

JN1105154893 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
11 May 93 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Why Have the Negotiations Suffered a Relapse?"]

[Text] It seems that the optimism, which characterized the peace talks and was reflected on the faces of Palestinian and Arab negotiators, has retreated, and that the

negotiations have suffered a dangerous relapse. Optimism over the possibility of the peace talks achieving success has waned and been replaced by pessimism.

The Palestinian negotiating team, which spoke about substantial and important progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track, was disappointed. This dramatic retreat in the negotiations was due to the failure of the U.S. Administration to fulfill its pledges and promises to the Palestinians and the Arabs. It is also due, in the first place, to Israel's rejection of the requisites of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace based on complete withdrawal from occupied Palestinian and Arab territories. All that Israel offered is a plan for Palestinian administrative rule under which Israel keeps sovereignty over the land and people.

Israel refused to commit itself to full withdrawal from the Syrian Golan and southern Lebanon in implementation of international Resolutions 242 and 338. Therefore, the negotiations on all tracks have reached a dead end.

The Arab countries bordering Israel agreed to resume the negotiations out of their desire to not waste the current opportunity for peace. In his reply cable to U.S. President Bill Clinton, His Majesty King Husayn emphasized Jordan's eagerness that the peace process continue, based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace. He stressed Jordan's willingness to do all it can to render the negotiations successful. Hence, it can be said that His Majesty King Husayn has hit the ball into the U.S. court. If the United States fails to fulfill its pledges and promises, it will be giving Israel a big opportunity to foil the negotiations and radically abort the peace process, which was based on the U.S. initiative.

U.S. Reaction to Kuwaiti 'Lie' Criticized

JN1205111293 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 May 93
pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "State Terrorism"]

[Text] Leaving all problems of the world behind, the Americans rushed after a Kuwaiti lie about an Iraqi conspiracy to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush.

The Americans, who do not like to deal with facts that are of no service to their ambitions, interests, and inner desires to conquer the world, are infatuated with the handling of all kinds of lies even if this leads to more disappointment in the United States' failure to adopt a logical policy or ethical behavior. When we reflect back on the Gulf crisis, we are astonished at the Kuwaiti ambassador to Washington who used his little daughter to present false testimony before the U.S. Congress, the discovery of which did not lead to an apology from the abovementioned ambassador or from Congress members, who, along with their voters, were fooled by a little girl.

An Iraqi conspiracy against Bush's life is the most recent lie launched by Kuwait. Two weeks later Washington deems it proper to believe this lie. Then leaders of the U.S. Congress emerge with demands to assassinate Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. This is as if the United States did not already exert and continue to exert all its efforts, along with many of its allies, to achieve this goal.

What is distressing is that a superpower, which claims to lead the world and gives us headaches with talk of democracy and human rights, never stopped declaring its desire to liquidate President Saddam Husayn ever since the weeks before Iraq entered Kuwait. During the allied aggression against the Iraqi people, scores of civilian targets were raided under the illusion that the Iraqi president was inside one of them. When the Americans targeted al- 'Amiriyah shelter and committed a racist crime—one that is unprecedented by the most veteran racists and those who are the most devoid of morals and ethics—President Bush's administration thought that Saddam Husayn was inside the shelter.

The call by Congress leaders to liquidate the leader of a country that does not submit to the United States, reflects the spirit of evil and aggression that currently dwells inside a large number of American voters. These American voters choose to be represented by politicians who do not hesitate to call for terrorism and who are not embarrassed to call on their political administration to assassinate President Saddam Husayn in response to a lie launched by malicious Kuwaitis and believed by malicious Americans. We believe it is necessary to present these U.S. statements to the UN Security Council and to all international forums even though we know that all those in our world are aware of this lie. They are also aware that great Iraq is not preoccupied with the life of Bush who was toppled by his own people. The Iraqis are part of a nation that does chase dead people with threats.

'Leftist' Parties Seek To Form United Front

JN1205074193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
12 May 93 pp 1, 10

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sausan Ghawshah]

[Text] Amman—Leftist parties stand little chance in gaining ground in the next parliamentary elections unless they form some sort of coalition after overcoming some of their differences, political analysts say.

The Jordanian press has heard different stories on the formation of the "Leftist Union" by three political parties; the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party (JSDP), the Jordanian Democratic People's Party (JDPP), and the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party (JDPUP).

JDPUP Secretary-General 'Azmi al-Khawaja said: "There are leftist parties that are similar in essence, beliefs, political broadlines and to a certain extent in

their internal structure...thus, an open dialogue was initiated to unite their efforts."

Until now, however, Mr. al-Khawaja said, there is no final agreement on the creation of such a union. Dialogue is still ongoing between the three political parties and a joint committee was formed to draft the programmes and projects of the proposed union, he said.

Other leftist parties were also asked to join the union, but there are several obstacles before this may be achieved, Mr. al-Khawaja stated. Talks, however, are still proceeding between the advocates of the union and other leftist parties.

The main obstacle is the dissension plaguing the leftist parties, he said.

There are six licensed leftist parties in Jordan, three of which have dissented from two older parties. The Jordanian Progressive Democratic Party, not part of the "Leftist Union," was founded by JDPP dissidents. The Freedom Party, outside the "Leftist Union," and the JSDP, an advocate of the union, are both splinter groups of the Jordanian Communist Party, which is outside the union.

Another obstacle in a merger of Jordan's left is the difference of opinions these parties hold in regard to the Arab-Israeli peace process; some of them support the talks while others reject the process, Mr. al-Khawaja said.

In addition, he said, those leftist parties which are not part of the dialogue to establish a united front, fear that the creation of a leftist union will "limit the scope of alliances."

Mr. al-Khawaja explained that they fear the name of the union "may prevent Arab nationalist and democratic parties" from forming a coalition with the leftist parties.

He stressed that the leftist union is "not going to be the last of the alliances," and that the JDPP, the JDPUP and the JSDP all hope to build alliances with other democratic forces and to form a broad national coalition.

The Leftist Union, if formed, will be headed by a joint leadership committee from the parties who decide to become part of it, Mr. al-Khawaja said. There will also be a joint council of central committee members of the parties, and separate councils handling affairs in the different regions of Jordan, he added.

There is also a plan to unite the women, youth and worker organisations that sprung from the different parties, Mr. al-Khawaja said. But, the total amalgamations of these parties into one, is not seen in the near future, he said.

The JDPUP, the JDPP and JSDP, Mr. al-Khawaja said, prefer to enter the election in "the broadest democratic

alliance possible" based on the strengthening and institutionalisation of democracy, rejecting the normalisation of relations with Israel and ending the Arab economic boycott of the Jewish state, solving Jordan's debt problem and reducing unemployment and fighting "American domination" of the region.

"We (the leftist parties) find ourselves forced to enter the parliamentary elections in coalitions," he said. If there is no coordination among the leftist parties, he added, their chances of securing a victory will be slim.

Preparations for the parliamentary elections, he said, are ongoing at the Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance, which includes leftist and pan-Arab parties as well as independent figures. July will be the deadline for all decisions to be made regarding the elections, according to Mr. al-Khawaja.

In the meantime, leftist parties are calling for a radical change of the current election law, demanding a block-voting system based on proportional representation in Parliament. They argue that this will be a more and democratic law.

Resistance Claims Killing of 'Agent' in South*NC1205093593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 12 May 93*

[Text] The Islamic resistance carried out an operation on the Bayt Yahun-Kunin Road, killing Mahdi Sha'ban. Two Israeli helicopters hovered over the site of the operation afterward.

The Islamic resistance operations room issued a statement, saying: At 0700 [0400 GMT] today, the martyrs Husayn al-Hakim Sajid and 'Ali Sha'ban Ja'far group implemented the death sentence against agent Mahdi Sha'ban, a security official in Bayt Yahun. He was a senior security official and close to the deceased agent Husayn 'Abd-al-Nabi and has an extensive criminal record. The group ambushed him on Bayt Yahun-Kunin Road and directed at him heavy rocket and machine-gun fire, killing him instantly. The Islamic resistance mujahidin returned to base.

The Islamic resistance statement added that the Israeli artillery shelled Bayt Yahun, 'Ayta al-Jabal, and Haddathah violently and that Israeli helicopters flew over the site of the operation.

Second Person Killed in Clashes*NC1205094993 Paris AFP in English 0824 GMT 12 May 93*

[Excerpt] Marj 'Uyun, Lebanon, May 12 (AFP)—Pro-Iranian guerrillas killed two members of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) in a string of attacks in southern Lebanon on Wednesday [12 May], security sources said.

Fighting between the Israeli forces and guerrillas from the Muslim fundamentalist Hizballah left one SLA militiaman dead, along with another militiaman and an Israeli army officer wounded, the source said.

Hizballah said its commandos attacked eight militia positions and also shot dead an SLA official in Bayt Yahun.

It fired a dozen Katyusha rockets and 80 mortar shells on Israeli positions, and the Army responded with an artillery bombardment of more than 300 shells, said an official from the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Amal, Hizballah Gunmen Clash 11 May*NC1205064893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 12 May 93*

[Text] Clashes broke out between Amal and Hizballah gunmen in al-Ghassaniyah, al-Zahrani District, yesterday. Army troops intervened and contained the situation.

Our security correspondent has learned that a dispute arose between Amal and Hizballah gunmen which later developed to clashes between the two groups involving

machine guns and rockets. The Army arrested seven people from al-Ghassaniyah.

Hizballah Radio Reports Clashes With Israelis*NC1205073093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 May 93*

[Text] The Islamic resistance asserts once again that it is the one who daily strikes at the enemy to force him to withdraw from the occupied land, far away from the humiliating negotiations at which the officials of this country expect handouts from the usurping enemy.

The Islamic resistance today has a new story to tell. At dawn today, Islamic resistance units attacked the occupation and its agents' positions in 'Alman, al-Shumariyah, al-Tuhrah, 'Ali al-Tahir, al-Suwayda', Sujud, Bi'r Kallab, and al-Radar.

Fierce clashes have been taking place since 0500 [0200 GMT] between these attacking units and the enemy, leading to direct hits in the enemy ranks. The enemy is using all types of weapons in an attempt to boost its soldiers' collapsed morale.

AT 0555, [Israeli] helicopters intervened in the battle and flew intensely over the area, and the resistance antiaircraft guns are confronting them. Eyewitnesses said a number of ambulances were seen at the battle-ground evacuating the dead and wounded.

According to fresh reports by our correspondent in the south, fierce clashes are raging between the Islamic resistance men and the Zionist occupation forces in Bayt Yahun and Haddathah. He said the enemy forces are shelling Iqlim al-Tuffah villages violently at this time.

Dear listeners, our correspondent in the south is on the line to give us an update on the situation in the south:

[Correspondent] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Amid the atmosphere of the greater hajj ritual, renunciation of the polytheists, and usurpation of beloved Palestine and holy Jerusalem, and following the bold operation carried out overnight by the Islamic resistance's martyr and detainee Bilal al-Salman group against a Zionist patrol between Arnun and al-Dabshah; large units of the oppressed's general mobilization forces of Hizballah at dawn today delivered a series of harsh blows against the enemy and its agents' positions. They attacked al-Shumariyah, 'Alman, al-Burj, 'Ali al-Tahir, al-Tuhrah, al-Suwayda', Sujud, Bi'r Kallab, and al-Rayhan and al-'Ayishiyah barracks, using all types of rockets and medium- and light-caliber weapons.

The enemy and its agents, who were gripped by panic, mustered all they had for the battle to salvage the collapsed morale of their soldiers. The enemy used helicopters and heavy artillery and sent concentrations to forward positions in an attempt to control the situation. The clashes lasted for several hours at some posts,

where several casualties and losses in vehicles and installations were inflicted and ambulances were seen evacuating the casualties to hospitals. The Islamic resistance mujahidin returned with victory and divine support.

The enemy radio acknowledged the operations and said an Israeli officer was wounded in yesterday's attack.

Elsewhere, Iqlim al-Tuffah villages are coming under violent, concentrated bombardment. Mlita, al-Luwayzah, 'Arab Salim, Jabal Safi, Jarju' and 'Ayn Bu Siwar villages are coming under violent artillery shelling. Security sources said that fierce fighting is taking place at Bayt Yahun and Haddathah positions.

SLA Discovers, Detonates 2 Explosive Devices

NC0805073993 (*Clandestine Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon* 0700 GMT 8 May 93)

[Text] South Lebanese Army forces last night discovered two explosive devices in the western zone of the border area. The engineering unit detonated them without causing any damage.

Two Explosions in Beirut Neighborhood, Casualties

NC0805091393 (*Clandestine Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic* 0845 GMT 8 May 93)

[Text] Two successive explosions took place about five minutes ago on Raghib Harb Street opposite the Haydar Hashim Building in Bi'r al-'Abd, wounding a number of people. According to initial reports, the incident resulted from the explosion of ammunition or from an electrical short.

Birri: Israeli Shelling To Pressure Peace Talks

NC1205101293 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic* 0915 GMT 12 May 93

[Excerpt] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri has said that the aim of the Israeli shelling is to pressure the [Arab-Israeli] negotiations. He added that Israel wants to set up a pure military committee and hold meetings in the absence of any international presence and thus circumvent Lebanon's rights. He affirmed that the Lebanese officials concerned with the negotiations have offered a conclusive answer. [passage omitted]

AL-SAFIR Closed for Publishing Israeli Document

NC1205105393 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic* 1015 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Fawzi Abu-Murad, public attorney at the Court of Appeals in Beirut, has issued a ruling suspending the publication of the newspaper AL-SAFIR for one week effective 12 May for publishing reports jeopardizing the state's safety and sovereignty.

AL-SAFIR had published the contents of a document that the Israeli negotiating delegation presented to the Lebanese delegation in Washington.

Nasrallah Reelected Hizballah Secretary General

NC1105170993 *Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic* 4 May 93 p 3

[Text] The general organizational congress of Hizballah has unanimously reelected Hasan Nasrallah as its secretary general for another term.

AL-SAFIR has learned that the congress recently concluded a series of meetings that are expected to be continued until a new structure for the party is completed.

Amnesty on U.S. Embassy Blast Suspects Repealed

NC1205064793 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic* 0315 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] The Military Court of Appeals, presided over by Judge Shaykh Amin Nassar, has decided to overturn the ruling issued by the Standing Military Court that the suspects accused of blowing up the U.S. Embassy in 1983 be covered by the general amnesty provisions.

The repeal ruling stipulated that the explosion, which killed 63 people, was an act aimed against foreign diplomats and thus cannot be covered by the general amnesty concerning war crimes.

The Court of Appeals decided to annul this ruling and return the file to the standing Military Court for necessary legal action after the appeal was accepted both in form and substance.

Judiciary sources said the case will be submitted to the Judiciary Council that will try five people accused of involvement in the attack.

Syria, Lebanon Agree on Plan To End Smuggling

NC0905173493 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic* 1555 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] In accordance with the security and military agreement emanating from the Lebanese-Syrian Fraternity, Cooperation and Coordination Treaty, and in a move aiming to protect the Lebanese economy and prevent the smuggling operations that take place occasionally on the northern coast, Syrian and Lebanese officers met in al-Biqa' on 9 May.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Arab Syrian Forces command, including the commander of the Syrian Forces in Lebanon, the commander and deputy commander of the security and surveillance branch in Lebanon, the commander of the Latakia Naval Base, and the intelligence chiefs of Homs, Tartus, and Baniyas, as well as by representatives of the Lebanese Army Command, including the commander of the Navy, the chief of the Joint Operations Room, the chief and deputy chief of intelligence, and the chief of the northern intelligence branch.

Agreement was reached during the meeting to implement joint security arrangements as of the morning of 10

May 1993, including naval and ground patrols in the area. The naval operations rooms in both countries will coordinate the effort.

Further meetings will be held to end all types of overland smuggling operations, which debilitate the Lebanese economy. Stiff measures will be taken against the smugglers.

Forces Destroying 'Illegal Ports'

JN1005152493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Beirut—Lebanese military forces, backed by the Syrian forces, this morning began to destroy illegal ports to prevent the smuggling of goods into Lebanese territory along the northern coast of Lebanon. Security Sources

said that work is under way to bulldoze and destroy the illegal ports. This, they added, will be followed by the deployment of Lebanese and Syrian military forces along the northern coast to prevent smuggling operations.

These measures fall within the framework of the military security agreement stemming from the Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty between Lebanon and Syria. The Guidance Directorate at the Lebanese Army Command pointed out that the representatives of the Lebanese and Syrian commands would meet to discuss ways to control smuggling by land and all other types of smuggling operations as they are hurting the Lebanese economy. The sources added that measures would also be taken to deter violators.

Al-Asad Discusses Peace, Health, Domestic Issues

*JN1005205493 London AL-WASAT in Arabic
10-16 May 93 pp 12-20*

[“Exclusive” interview with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad by correspondent Patrick Seale in Latakia—date not given]

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad, who has been ruling Syria since 1970, enjoys good health and will mark his 63d birthday on 6 October.

He received me at his beautiful summer palace, which consists of one floor and is located among gorgeous gardens in Latakia at a stone's throw from the Mediterranean. His steps were firm, his complexion indicated good health, and his looks were sharp as usual. Hafiz al-Asad talked vigorously for approximately three and a half hours, the length of his exclusive interview with AL-WASAT. He also demonstrated a sharp mind, which I have seen in him over the past 20 years.

Instead of being exhausted by pressures and anxiety, he gives every impression that he fully enjoys the game in which he is involved along with Israel, the United States, and his Arab partners—a game which is known as the “peace process.”

I have stated these details of President al-Asad's health for international and internal reasons. Al-Asad's health is of a great political importance, as he is a major player in the Middle East. His disappearance from the arena will immediately affect not only the peace negotiations, but also every relationship in the region from Iran to the Arab Maghreb and through the Arabian Gulf.

In Syria itself, al-Asad's health has been a subject of speculations by political and diplomatic circles. Since he fell sick in December, diplomats and other observers in Damascus have been very preoccupied with the subject of who will succeed him and whether the transfer of power will be easy and calm or stormy. Everyone has in mind a civilian or a military personality whom he believes to have the best chance. Some believe that al-Asad is preparing his son, Basil, to take power. Others believe that if anything happens to the president, his brother, Rif'at al-Asad, who has returned to Damascus from exile, will only try to seize power if he can overcome those who opposed him during the 1984 crisis. Other people fear that a power struggle will occur.

In light of these large-scale speculations, I felt happy when I found President al-Asad in good health. This means that the issue of who will succeed him is not a direct concern in the Syrian arena.

During this exclusive, comprehensive interview with AL-WASAT, President al-Asad spoke more frankly, directly, and elaborated more than ever before about his vision of peace and his strategy to preserve it. He also explained how he took the initiative by launching his

formula based on “full peace in return for full withdrawal”, a step he describes as a large leap forward. By putting the ball in the Israeli court, President al-Asad challenges Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to prove his readiness to achieve peace.

Let us now move to the core of the issue.

It is a familiar Syrian tradition for the president to meet with senior religious scholars and imams to offer prayers with them during the holy month of Ramadan. However, this year the occasion was more significant than usual since President al-Asad met with a larger group. Syrian television also videotaped all the prayers and aired them on television. During the exclusive interview held with the president, he touched on his meeting with the scholars and imams. This might have been the proper place to uncover his interpretation of his peace strategy and philosophy. Al-Asad said: “When I held consultations with these religious men during the holy month of Ramadan, I expressed the opinion that the battle we are waging now might be tougher than the military battle we waged in 1973 or the ensuing war of attrition. In any conflict or struggle, there is a need for a many kinds of weapons, not just tanks and guns. In any such conflict, it is only natural for warring sides to use all the weapons at their disposal, either fully or partially. The important thing is to ensure that there is no disparity between military and political objectives. Otherwise, we might lose the ability to appreciate issues in a manner that is commensurate with their importance. We would like to reiterate right now that our objective is peace, and that peace must be comprehensive. In the past, we insisted on the attainment of peace through an international conference. We did not want to see the conference result in the formation of bilateral committees if such a thing were to preclude thorough coordination among the Arab sides. In all the speeches we delivered during visits foreign leaders made to our country, and during the visits we made to foreign countries, we firmly underscored the need for convening such a peace conference. Even when we were making such utterances, we were fully convinced that Israel does not seek peace.”

[Seale] Do you still hold this view?

[Al-Asad] I wish you would be a little patient because I was about to answer your question. Right now, we say that we are after peace. As a matter of fact, we only say what we mean; we do mean what we say. These actions might seem strange in today's world because you might hear a senior official saying something one moment only to be surprised an hour later when he says quite the opposite. Concerning the doubts we had about Israel; that is, about its lack of desire for peace, they are still there. The evidence of this is the fact that the Israeli delegations to peace talks failed to take a single step forward during the past eight rounds of peace talks. However, there is a phenomenon that has begun to emerge in Israel, one that could be deemed new. We have noticed this phenomenon, particularly during the past two years. This phenomenon concerns the emergence of

greater support for peace efforts in Israel. This phenomenon is bound to leave its impact on Israeli rulers. We did not notice such a trend in the past. If such a trend existed in the past, it was not that strong. Today, this trend seems to be getting stronger. Of course, fanatics, for example, are still making their presence felt within Israeli religious parties, and even within the Labor Party itself. It goes without saying that not all members of the Labor Party are fanatics. In any case, there is no doubt that we are seeking peace. Otherwise, we would not have spoken about peace for the past 20 years. Nonetheless, we will work to ensure the restoration of our rights and the attainment of our objectives. As for the peace we are seeking, it must be just and comprehensive. Moreover, it must be based on UN resolutions.

[Seale] You say that your policy is "complete peace for complete withdrawal." Is this still your position now?

[Al-Asad] Yes.

[Seale] Can you explain some of the steps toward that objective?

[Al-Asad] When Syria proposed the concept of "complete peace for complete withdrawal," that marked a major step forward. The objective was to throw the ball into the Israeli court. We are awaiting an answer from the Israelis because the ball is now in their court. But, thus far, they have not given an answer. Consequently, and until they do, any talk about subsequent steps is meaningless. At any rate, this is not one of the political leadership's immediate tasks, and such matters must be discussed on other levels. I also suggest you put that question to the Israelis.

[Seale] Do you mean that I should ask them if they would give up the whole of the Golan Heights if you agreed to end the state of war?

[Al-Asad] No. We have proposed complete peace for complete withdrawal, but they have not accepted that. Therefore, there is no use in asking hypothetical questions or talking about possibilities and probabilities when the other party has not yet accepted the basic principle. If you and I were the two warring parties, we would have easily moved to the next questions.

[Seale] You have said that new forces have begun to emerge in Israel?

[Al-Asad] People have become accustomed to saying that the problem between Syria and Israel is which of the two would start talking openly about peace before the other. We were the first to speak openly about peace. We presented an idea that was not common on the street. We were the ones who presented this idea. We said: It is a two-part formula—complete peace for complete withdrawal. We support this formula, but does Israel support it? This is the question. Since we were the first to speak, those, who say that the problem is who will speak first, should know things better. Their knowledge of things

should be better than it is now. Do they want to take the Arabs by surprise? In all cases, they are mistaken.

[Seale] When the Israelis talk about peace with Syria they say they want a peace that will stand on its own feet. I think they mean separate peace.

[Al-Asad] The entire peace process was based on the need for a comprehensive solution. This is provided by charters. Therefore, if they think of separate peace this will be contrary to the basic rules in accordance with which the peace process was launched in the first place. We agreed from the beginning that peace must be comprehensive. We recently heard again from the Americans that a comprehensive peace will remain the objective. The Israelis themselves informed the Americans that they also prefer a comprehensive peace, or, at any rate, they do not oppose it.

[Seale] But Israeli Prime Minister Rabin is apparently not ready for a full withdrawal from the West Bank. A senior Israeli official has recently been cited as saying: Syria has won the battle of Lebanon, but we are not ready to allow this to happen again with the Palestinians and Jordan.

[Al-Asad] What does he mean by this?

[Seale] Apparently, he is indicating that the next battle between Israel and Syria will be on bringing the Palestinians and Jordan to the Syrian or Israeli zone of influence. I heard some Israelis proposing a deal that if they return the Golan to al-Asad and if they accept Syria's hegemony in Lebanon, will they be given a free hand in the West Bank and Jordan?

[Al-Asad, laughing] Let us commit ourselves to the peace process between Israel and the Arabs. We are discussing this process in light of the separate deliberations which the United States held with the Arabs and Israel. The more we expand this topic the more complicated it will become. It is important that peace should remain the goal.

[Seale] Do you agree that Syria and Israel are destined to remain foes even if a peace settlement is reached?

[Al-Asad] Why?

[Seale] Due to their geopolitical situation. Syria and Israel are two foes, exactly like in chess. There are three pawns: Lebanon, the Palestinians, and Jordan. Both Syria and Israel want to control these three pawns.

[Al-Asad] As I said, there is a growing current in Israel itself which supports and demands peace. The number of people in Israel expressing such views is increasing. They want peace between Israel and the Arab nation. Regardless of what anyone may say, the whole world knows that the Arab nation lives in this region. No one in the East or West can ignore the Arab nation. Even if the Arabs have differences among themselves, and even if they occasionally fight each other, they will ultimately stand alongside one another. This has nothing to do with the current

group of states and rulers. It represents the people's sentiments. These were my sentiments when I was a child. These sentiments did not come from outside, they were deep inside me. When I used to read about the heroic deeds of 'Antar [a famous hero in Arab history] I would get very excited, just as if I were intoxicated, but without drinking arrack or wine. Our glorious past was the source of my excitement. Here, I am not talking about fanatic pan-Arabism. But once you belong to a nation, your mind, soul, conscience, and passions will be affiliated with it. The sense of affiliation increases when the current generations learn about the nation's past history under colonialist rule when the nation was poor, backward, and fragmented. Such a situation shakes one's feelings and awakens the conscience. Everyone wants to surmount the obstacles facing his hopes, aspirations, and pride, and at the proper time, those facing his interests as well.

[Seale] You have said there is a peace movement in Israel. Is there a peace movement in Syria? Is the public opinion prepared?

[Al-Asad] All that we are doing in Syria is well known to our people. Our peace policy has not been determined by one man or one institution. The children have discussed it year after year in their schools. It has been discussed by our parties and the state institutions. Should you have any doubts, speak to any person. Our complaint is that the West, it seems, never attempts to know our people's views. It attempts to speak to one man so as to discuss with him what it would like to hear. Representatives of the Western mass media come here just to seek affirmation of their preconceptions. That is how I know Western politicians and journalists to be. They come with certain images of Syria in their minds. Afterward, as I said, they begin to look for a person to verify their bias and prejudice. As far as I know, we have not prevented any person at all from coming to Syria. I know that some harbor grudge against us, and that they come here in order to serve our enemies. We are not talking about those people, but we are talking about those who really want to know the truth. However, this is how they act. They do not direct their attention to the masses of our people and their leaders. Nor do they attempt to consult with our political parties. The West talks much about parties. However, when it wants to know what is taking place in Syria, the West does not go to our parties. If you speak to our parties in Syria, of which there are seven, you will find that all of them are deep-rooted movements. It is true that there are differences among them, but if you ask them about their stands on the peace process, you will find them expressing the same views, which they will defend with their own souls. The same thing applies to our trade unions and popular organizations. What helps in this regard is that what we say to those whom we contact on the peace process is the same as what we say to our people. The views which we have expressed since the beginning of the peace process after the Gulf war had been studied and discussed first within the National Progressive Front and the popular organizations. What we are doing now is the outcome of such

discussions and deliberations. This does not mean that 100 percent of the Syrians share the same views. There are people in our country who say that the Israelis do not want peace. Therefore, they say, we should not waste much effort on it. They insist that the negotiations themselves constitute a gain for Israel and a loss for the Arabs. Thousands, tens of thousands, and perhaps hundreds of thousands of people here hold such views. However, this did not lead to serious splits or disputes in our country. Despite the differences over what should be done, nobody believes that the others want to relinquish our national rights. No such charges are made in this regard.

[Seale] Is not it difficult for a Ba'thist or a pan-Arabist to accept the existence of Israel in this region?

[Al-Asad] Since its establishment, the PLO has been affirming that it is the representative of the Palestinian Arab people. This is what the Arabs have eventually accepted. However, many Arabs disagree with the PLO, and also the PLO disagrees with many Arabs. However, most of these differences have remained within the boundaries of brotherly sympathy. In this regard, we adhered to certain basic matters. Therefore, when the PLO said that it wanted to reach a settlement based on international resolutions, other Arab countries shared the same opinion. This has resulted in the adoption of a new stand, stating that Palestine should include both the Arabs and the Israelis.

[Seale] Then, Israel's presence in the region was accepted?

[Al-Asad] I speak about how the Palestinians approach things. Of course, this also applies to Egypt. The acceptance of the UN resolutions means that the Arabs agree, given the *fait accompli*, that the Israelis and the Arabs have their place in Palestine.

[Seale] I address these questions to your excellency because the Israelis usually say: Why does President al-Asad not make a peace gesture? Why does he not issue a statement to help Rabin in winning over the Israeli public opinion to peace? They want something public. Mr. President, perhaps you will make such a gesture now?

[Al-Asad, laughing] When we speak about the peace process, we see that only Syria has offered something to this process. The Syrian delegation to these talks was the only one to make an initiative. As for Israel, it offered nothing. In addition to exchanging talk, we submitted a document. The Americans described our initiative as historic. This was the opinion of former U.S. secretary of state James Baker and Lawrence Eagleburger who succeeded him for a while. Most probably you remember that before this Israel had rejected the U.S. proposals. Shamir wrote a letter to the Americans in this vein. But we accepted the U.S. proposals. Had we not done so, there would not have been a peace process.

We are now speaking about total peace for total withdrawal. What have the Israelis offered in exchange? They

did nothing. The Israeli delegations sat with the Arab delegations and refused to discuss any of the essential issues. Instead, they say for example: How can we interpret this or that statement issued on this or that date, or what is intended by this or that commentary broadcast by this or that Arab radio? From all this, it became clear to the Arab side that the Israelis want to procrastinate and avoid tackling real issues. In any case, following the downfall of Shamir's government, the Israelis themselves admitted that this was what they were doing. Shamir, himself, said that he planned to waste time for 10 years. He meant that after a decade, people will come to accept his slogan "peace for peace." The Israelis admitted that this was what they wanted. Let us see what this round will produce. Now that Rabin's government is in power we will have to wait and see. As for the Americans, they too are also waiting and are optimistic, because it seems that the Israelis have started to become serious. The Americans also have started to become serious and they say that the Israelis are also serious.

[Seale] You said that you received fresh U.S. assurances from Clinton's administration reaffirming U.S. commitment to UN Security Council Resolution 242. Can you confirm this?

[Al-Asad] The Clinton administration announced that it is committed to Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace. This means it is committed to the U.S. initiative itself, to the letters, the guarantees, and the letter of invitation on whose basis the peace process began in Madrid. In other words, the Clinton administration is committed to the same things that prevailed under the Bush administration.

[Seale] Do you think your relations with the Clinton administration got off to a good start?

[Al-Asad] We are for the peace process, which is certainly proceeding well with the Clinton administration. Peace, however, furthers American and many other interests as well as Arab interests. The Americans have never said that their interests will not be advanced by the peace process. They have often told us that they have a vested interest in Middle East peace. In short, we are comfortable with what we see as a serious approach on the part of the Clinton administration.

[Seale] I'd like to return, if I may, to your ties with the PLO. In the past you argued that the Palestinian issue is a pan-Arab question rather than one exclusively concerning the Palestinians. Hence your once-abiding opposition to what was called the independent Palestinian decision. Under the present circumstances, are you prepared to accept that the Palestinians have a kind of independent right to negotiate as they please?

[Al-Asad] In all events, this does not clash with Arab rights. We regard the PLO the way we do any other players in the region. Supposing an Arab party were to concede Arab rights, we would stand against it, this being

Syria's long-held and traditional line. We think, however, that there will not be any relinquishment of Arab rights as long as the Arabs coordinate their strategies.

[Seale] One of the concessions you made in Madrid was your acquiescence that there be no official linkage between progress on the four negotiating tracks—between Israel on the one hand and each of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the Palestinians on the other; yet you now speak of an unofficial linkage!

[Al-Asad] No, this is not so. The linkage is official. Only a few days ago there was a meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Damascus. Such sessions take place regularly, sometimes on a daily basis as the need arises.

[Seale] So you think that there is linkage?

[Al-Asad] No one has suggested otherwise. Early on in the interview I referred to a peace settlement that can "stand on its own feet". Of course, it will have to stand on its own feet; it cannot possibly stand on its head. [laughter] I do not see a contradiction here. At the end of the day, the Arab parties negotiating over specific or local issues will each reach a bilateral agreement with Israel, that is when a peace agreement is reached. There will eventually be a number of bilateral agreements. This, however, will not affect any of the parties, since each country has its own constitutional peculiarities. Each government has its own particular concerns. But no Arab state has the right to infringe on the rights of another. On that score, there are no misunderstandings among the Arabs. Take, for example, the 1973 disengagement of forces agreement. Egypt first reached an agreement and then we followed suit. We were not too happy about Egypt's agreement with Israel, because it was worked out under the pressure of war. The two agreements were not identical.

[Seale] You say that this could take place in the peace process?

[Al-Asad] Not necessarily. I was speaking about a disengagement of forces. This was some kind of a truce. As for now, we are speaking about peace. If everyone acknowledges that peace should be comprehensive, then the basic rules in each case will be similar. But, as I said, this will be left for each country to apply individually, for Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the Palestinians. We all joined the peace process on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338, which apply to all. But the mode of action could be different. This specifically applies to the PLO because the agreement it wants to conclude through the negotiations seeks to establish a self-rule system as a first step. During the preliminary talks with the Americans, the Palestinians agreed to a first stage consisting of self-rule in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip before moving to deciding the final status of these territories during a maximum period of five years.

[Seale] Do you want to say that Syria could reach an agreement with Israel before the final status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is decided?

[Al-Asad] The Arabs have accepted that there should be an agreement first on Palestinian self-rule. However, the first stage should be linked to the final status of the occupied territories, and everything that is implemented should take place within the framework of UN Security Council Resolution 242. We need not say that the other countries have to pass through the stage of self-rule. Israel is not proposing self-rule to Syria, or to southern Lebanon.

[Seale] Then progress on all tracks need not necessarily be parallel?

[Al-Asad] Yes. But even this will be agreed among the Arabs themselves. What is important is that we be absolutely certain that the entire process seeks to achieve a comprehensive peace.

[Seale] Then you say that the tracks could move at different speeds?

[Al-Asad] Maybe. However, this matter has marginal tactical importance only. For example, the delegations are negotiating in Washington. At one of the stages, they say that the Palestinian track is quickly progressing. Should this disturb us? On the contrary, it will be in our interest if they proceed quickly. The truth is that since the delegations negotiate in separate rooms, it is impossible to have complete coordination concerning the terminology used, particularly when each delegation focuses on its own issues. That's why, variations are inevitable.

[Seale] Setting aside the tactical differences you have mentioned, is there not an essential point here? If Syria is the first to reach an agreement and is removed from the equation, will the Israelis not find it easier to deal with the Palestinians, or even with Jordan? It seems to me that this is the Israeli strategy. This is what the Israelis mean when they say "a peace that stands on its own feet." By this, they mean a peace with Syria that has nothing to do with the other tracks. I am sorry to press this point, but everyone is speaking about it?

[Al-Asad] No problem.

[Seale] At which stage of the Palestinian process will you accept that an agreement be signed?

[Al-Asad] Let us suppose that the Palestinians sign a peace agreement tomorrow, will this mean that all lines between us and the Palestinians will be cut? And if Lebanon concludes a peace treaty tomorrow—and I wish this to happen—will this mean that we will become isolated and that Lebanon will be useless to Syria?

[Seale] This depends on the agreement that the Lebanese will conclude. What if they sign a treaty similar to the 17 May 1983 accord?

[Al-Asad, laughing] Then, we will launch a war against them. I have said that nobody should harm anybody else.

[Seale] So this is your basic rule?

[Al-Asad] Why did we fight against the 17 May accord? When Lebanon reached that accord, it brought harm to itself. Then, the Lebanese negotiators harmed Lebanon. Our firm opinion, which we have been taught by history, is that when Lebanon is harmed, we are harmed. When a country harms another country, it would in fact be harming itself.

[Seale] Can I sum up your stand as follows: You say the tracks of the negotiations may proceed at various speeds, and bilateral agreements can be reached individually on condition that they do not harm Arab interests, and as long as the final objective is a comprehensive settlement?

[Al-Asad] No, I did not say so. Varying speeds, yes. But as for the rest, we will see later. We must see whether the varying speeds will lead to agreements at various dates. When we get to that stage, we will see whether or not some of the participants should sign bilateral agreements, and whether or not such agreements will serve collective interests and the peace process. We will see whether there will be other factors to be taken into consideration. We will make our decision in accordance with the negotiations and deliberations as they proceed. I only spoke about the speed of progress on various tracks, nothing else.

[Seale] But no agreements will be signed?

[Al-Asad] We will discuss this in due course. While the peace process has thus far not moved beyond the starting line, you are asking about the end.

[Seale] I remember that you once said something similar about President al-Sadat; that he started the negotiations from the point at which they should have ended, and that he reversed matters.

[Al-Asad] That is right.

[Seale] Can I ask you about your relations with the Islamic movement? Strangely enough, you have cordial relations with Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement]. However, at the same time, you welcome Yasir 'Arafat in Damascus. And while you maintain close relations with Iran, Sudan, and Hizballah, you have cordial relations with Egypt and Algeria, which are waging a battle against Islamic extremism. I admire your diplomatic skill, but how do you explain this contradiction?

[Al-Asad] There is no contradiction. There is nothing strange in that. There are various forces at work, and each has its own views. They may have major or minor differences among them. Sometimes, common denominators, or at least the absence of contradictions, allow for such forces to coexist. When there is something in common, relations can be cordial and cooperation can be possible. Regarding the case of the existing forces in the Arab arena, each one attempts to liberate its territory although they may adopt different approaches. I see no justification for wasting our resources on marginal problems or problems that are currently not of a priority

nature, whether here in Syria or in the Arab world as a whole. Coexistence is possible despite such differences.

[Seale] Are you talking about the Islamic and pan-Arab forces?

[Al-Asad] Among other things.

[Seale] Do you differentiate between such organizations as Hizballah and Hamas doing battle against foreign occupation and such organizations as the Islamic group in Egypt and the Salvation front in Algeria that are in conflict with their own governments?

[Al-Asad] Absolutely. Hamas and the others are fighting against occupation and colonialism; they are defending their homelands. The others have a different cause.

[Seale] What are the fascinating features of your diplomacy? You now have good relations with virtually everybody.

[Al-Asad] Thank God.

[Seale] I mean that Lebanon is now tranquil, Iraq weak, Egypt a friend, and the Gulf states are happy with your position during the Gulf war, Iran is an ally of yours, and even the Western nations are not particularly hostile to you, because they are aware of Syria's centrality in the peace process. Meanwhile, your popularity rating in Syria has never been higher. So you seem to be in a very strong position.

[Al-Asad] I do not primarily seek to be in a very strong position. My objective is to be in a position where I am able to serve the people and the Arab nation to which I belong. We in Syria do not hide our feelings toward those who want to destroy Arab values. Neither do we bow to the foreign powers that take an anti-Arab posture. We want to live as a nation in this new world. We want to cooperate with others so as to advance mutual interests—ours and theirs. Each party will have to respect the will and perspectives of others. We will always make a point of sorting out differences according to international law and conventions. Thus we are after a permanent peace in every corner of the world, including ours.

[Seale] It has often been said that you are the only man who can bring peace to this region.

[Al-Asad] But there are men in Israel who seem not to want to bring peace to the region.

[Seale] Like Benyamin Netanyahu, the new Likud Party chairman?

[Al-Asad] Netanyahu for one; even Shamir compares favorably with him.

[Seale] Do you agree with the analysis that Rabin is squeezed between Netanyahu and the Islamic radicals, which limits his room for maneuver?

[Al-Asad] Nothing is trouble free, but if peace is such a prize, it is worth striving for, and certainly deserves to be pursued. Since peace will bring dividends to all the

peoples of the region, it must be pursued with vigor. Were peace not a priority, we would be in quite a different situation. People have usually maintained that the Israeli right is incapable of making peace with any Arab state. Take Begin, for instance. He nurtured the dream of a Greater Israel, and yet he took a step, which whatever one may think, is a step all the same.

[Seale] Yes, he removed Egypt from the equation as Rabin wishes to remove Syria from it now?

[Al-Asad] No. Thanks be to God, we proceed together in the peace process. All the Arabs are moving together, not to mention that even Rabin has no interest in fragmenting peace. Begin also had no real interest in fragmenting peace. Begin's problem was that he approached the issue from a tactical angle instead of viewing it from a strategic aspect. Egypt was an Arab country and will remain so. Perhaps, you heard me say this. Nowadays, there are no differences between us and Egypt. Perhaps, you heard me say the same thing when we had differences. It is difficult for a person to step out of his skin. Any peace that is not comprehensive will not last. Syria could have concluded a bilateral agreement with Israel a long time ago. It could have done it alone. But we do not believe that such a move will be in the interest of the peoples in the region. In any case, any talk about separate peace will sound odd within the framework of the efforts that are under way.

After we collectively started the peace process, there was no longer any thinking about a separate peace. In this conflict, we have agreed which bases to adopt, and we have defined to a large extent the course we will follow to achieve our goal. From this premise, even if one of the parties concludes a separate or bilateral agreement one cannot call it a separate peace. Many years ago, if a country wanted to conclude a separate deal, perhaps this could have been possible. But we all waited to start the peace process together. Since we are all participating in this process, then the chances of success will be greater because our ability to overcome difficulties has been enhanced, not to mention our skill to avoid future risks. These factors serve all those who want peace. The last time that a separate deal was concluded peace was not achieved in the region. On the contrary, that step led to many wars.

[Seale] Do you envisage the post peace settlement stage and the state of affairs that will prevail when peace is attained?

[Al-Asad] Of course.

[Seale] Are you preparing your country for such an eventuality?

[Al-Asad] Yes. During our term in office, we have never taken any step forward if we believed that our people were moving in the opposite direction. Had we done so, the peace that we could have achieved would have been a false one. I do not say this lightly. We want all our people to know what is taking place. When I meet and

speak to foreign leaders, I keep in mind that millions of people listen to what I have to say. I realize that any mistake in this could have dire results with respect to the man who commits such a mistake and with respect to the entire country. That's why we hold discussions on the popular level with the popular organizations, trade unions, and the other parties, and also with people who do not belong to any party. As I said, not all are convinced. There are some people in opposition.

[Seale] Are your current moves toward a free-market economy linked to your conception of a peaceful settlement? Do you want to make your economy more competitive? Are you considering further steps to unshackle the economy?

[Al-Asad] We have been moving in this direction since the late eighties before the beginning of the peace process. We have issued a number of relevant laws, and we have a specific objective in mind. We support the private sector, but some prefer the mixed sector, while others still believe in the public sector. Our plans are based on the assumption that no single sector can meet the needs of the people. If we take each sector individually, we find that it is unable to inspire the required development. In this country, there are many able people. The question is how they can be mobilized within the framework of development. Therefore, we have decided to promote and encourage the three sectors, where no one can claim that he cannot find a suitable place for his special traits and activities. The private sector is currently moving faster. It started with a number of private projects, in addition to a significant number of major projects. Undoubtedly, the private sector will grow more confident with time. Business interests are represented well in our political system, now that many of its members have been elected to the National Assembly during the general elections. In my view, there is a similarity between economic and political problems. In countries with one-party systems, the ruling party cannot mobilize the potential of all people. Although there are various views in this regard within our party and in the government, a single economic sector remains unable to fully mobilize the country's resources.

[Seale] With the rapid increase in the country's population, the state seems unable to fully meet the demands of education and social services. Do you believe the private sector can enter such fields?

[Al-Asad] We do have some private schools, albeit in insufficient numbers. We will allow more to be opened. As for services, in the health sector there is a good number of private hospitals, including major ones. When I personally faced a health problem (in 1983), I went to the al-Shami private hospital.

[Seale, laughing] I am happy that the president does not need to think about hospitals. You appear to be in excellent health?

[Al-Asad] God be praised. But the years have begun to leave their mark.

[Seale] You look in excellent health.

[Al-Asad] One of the reasons is that I feel comfortable here [in Latakia]. I can do some of my work here. Yesterday I signed more letters than I usually sign in Damascus on a single day. There was a big stack of letters, and I did not leave my office before 2130.

[Seale] Can I interrupt to ask whether you intend to give more powers to the parties which form the NPF as it appears that at present they do not have much power?

[Al-Asad] I believe that these parties have real power. They participate in the country's political, social, economic, and cultural life, and in the decisions that affect the fate of every citizen. They monitor the Government's work. On many occasions, policies and measures were discussed at their request. They participate in all the institutions and establishments. In some countries, parties remain for decades without having any impact on public affairs. During the October war the NPF Central Command was mobilized and placed on alert. It followed up the progress of the war in its capacity as political command. I used to daily leave my post of military commander to brief it on the details and on the bad and good news. I used to study the decisions the command wanted to make. At the end of the war, I accepted UN Security Council Resolution 338 only after I met several times with the NPF command. What other powers do you want it to enjoy other than my telling its members: I am leaving, goodbye. I am leaving for home, so you will have to assume the responsibility? [al-Asad laughs]. There is nothing that prevents them from voicing their opinion on any issue. When we meet, we discuss everything frankly and in the open. This is a practice we established immediately following the Corrective Movement. Not one member of these parties has been arrested for his activities within the Front.

[Seale] Imprisoned, you mean?

[Al-Asad] Yes, in prison. I say this because you perhaps believe that they participate out of fear. The arrest of a person is not a usual occurrence. However, people make mistakes. Even within these parties, you can find a criminal from time to time. He must be dealt with. What I have said is that no one was arrested for his opinions. I would like to emphasize this point to affirm that there is no sword brandished over their heads. If we want to threaten them with the stick, then why would we go to great pains to obtain their approval? Of what use would they be had we forced them to become members of the Front? We wanted them to join out of conviction. Throughout Syria's history, it has been proved that this country cannot be ruled by force. During the period when regimes used to change every one or two months, the regimes that used to fall more quickly than others were those who used to resort to force. Husni al-Za'im who ruled Syria for a short period of time in 1949 hanged many in the first days of his rule, and executed 40 to 50 persons in one day. This became the talk of the town at the time. However, he remained in power for only two to

three months. The same applies to France which colonized Syria between World War I and World War II. During that period, it had to deal with revolutions against its rule every few months. At one of the stages, there were more than 25 upheavals throughout the country. It was evident that France had no intention to withdraw after 20 years but it was forced in the end to withdraw. Syria is a country that cannot be ruled by force.

[Seale] Allow me, Your Excellency, to say that it is being rumored in the city that you are here in Latakia because you are planning a major change.

[Al-Asad] What sort of change are they talking about?

[Seale] They are talking about reforms, about curbing corruption by ranking figures, and about misconduct by the sons and grandsons of ranking personalities. Rumors say the president wants to retire some of these people in an honorable way in order to protect Syria from foreign pressures in cases such as drugs and corruption.

[Al-Asad] Our people always yearn for something new. What is definite is that I do not know any other country that combats corruption the way we do in Syria. When I hear accusations against us, I soon realize that they are politically motivated. Smuggling is a problem in Syria. We are surrounded by neighbors and we foiled many smuggling attempts. Courts also hand down harsh sentences against those arrested. But smugglers are usually violent and armed, too. Several clashes occurred with the security forces and people from both sides were killed. As for misconduct in senior posts, I do not think any country in the region has ever tried a minister or sentenced him to a 15-year term for misconduct [as we did]. In 1987, former Agriculture Minister Dr. Mahmud al-Kurdi was held responsible for mismanagement and misconduct in his ministry. He was referred to the court although he was a prominent Ba'thist and had up to that time a clean record. Moreover, the relatives of some senior officials were sentenced and they are still serving their prison terms. I do not want to mention every single case. Some people have even been sentenced to death for their abuse of power. We in Syria have a natural aversion to drugs. This makes us despise those who use or traffic in drugs. Religion also opposes the use of drugs.

Smugglers deal with drugs, but this should not be a reason to level accusations against Syria. Throughout its existence, Syria has never planted such crops. I regret to say that Lebanon did so in the past and smugglers used Syria as a transit country. When we ask those accusing us of dealing with drugs to present their evidence, all they could say is al-Biq'a Valley. I ask them: Did we go to Lebanon to chase smugglers or solve a political problem and end civil war? Nevertheless, we helped the Lebanese Armed Forces comb the region in recent years. As far as we know, no sizeable quantities of hashish are planted in Lebanon any more, but smuggling is of course continuing. Our main fears were about our soldiers, who are living among the Lebanese people, because drugs were a

source of income for a very long time. It is fortunate that the use of drugs has not reached our army. As far as I know, the use of drugs in Syria is very limited and most probably less problematic here than in any other country. It is definitely less problematic than in the United States, which is one of the major world consumers.

[Seale] I would like, if I may, to conclude this interview with a change of subject. For many years, Syria was a friend of the Soviet Union. How much of a shock was the Soviet Union's collapse for you, and when did you realize the full extent of the event?

[Al-Asad] I sensed from the beginning—and that was not a prophecy—the direction things were taking. There was no predicting how things would unfold. However, as far as the unraveling of the USSR, the writing was on the wall. I reckoned that far-reaching changes were on the way and that we had to take that into account. I realized that the collapse of the USSR was going to have repercussions for the entire world and not just for us. In actual fact, all the world came to be negatively impacted both economically and politically. Even the adversaries of the USSR were hurt. The socialist camp was a huge productive power and consumer market. In my opinion, its abrupt withdrawal from the international economic order was a principal contributor to the economic crisis in which a large part of the world finds itself today.

[Seale] Has Syria suffered in a big way?

[Al-Asad] I reckon our suffering was far less than many of the third world and socialist countries.

[Seale] Why was that?

[Al-Asad] Because we were not in the Soviet orbit. We were friends and we had joint interests. But we were never a liability to them, or they to us. Nor was our system of government—domestically or externally—a carbon copy of theirs. That had been the case from the beginning—since 1970. I valued the Soviet Union's strong stand on our behalf. But we were not a part of the world Soviet system. It is wrong to suggest that we joined the peace process on account of the disintegration of the Soviet Union. When we went to Madrid Gorbachev was still in office, and the unraveling of the Soviet Union had yet to happen. We were particularly struck by a newfound seriousness and even-handedness on the part of the U.S. Administration enshrined in the U.S. initiative, and so we went to Madrid. I first met Henry Kissinger when he came to Syria in late 1973 in the wake of the October war. I recall he told me that he wanted for us to begin our talks by undertaking a review of events around the world. He then went straight into applauding Syria's independent and pan-Arab policies. He made a remark to the effect that Syria had charted its own way and never let itself be caught in the clutches of others. Obviously he was referring to the Soviet Union, and I thanked him for that particular remark. I took the opportunity to say to him that he should not expect us to gravitate to the American orbit.

'Tangible Progress' Needed To Pave Way for 10th Round

JN1105163593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1139 GMT 11 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] An atmosphere of disappointment permeates the Arab-Israeli talks in Washington. Although the issues being discussed are important and substantive, no progress has been made due to the fact that the Israelis still adopt an intransigent stand and evade giving a categorical commitment to withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories.

On the Syrian track, with the Israelis' awareness of Syria's sincere peaceful intentions, full withdrawal from the Golan Heights still constitutes the crux of the current talks. The Syrian side proposed the formula for comprehensive peace in return for full withdrawal. However, the Israeli side has only spoken about withdrawal from the Golan; namely, a partial withdrawal, something which Syria rejects and views as an attempt to circumvent the bases of the peace process and to undermine efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace.

On the Palestinian track, the Israelis have stripped the autonomy plan of any essential contents and disavowed promises they made to the U.S. Administration to alleviate the Palestinian people's suffering in the occupied territories and to return a group of deportees and detainees to their homes. During its recent meeting, the Israeli Government renewed the siege imposed on the occupied territories. A UN report touched on a serious situation in the territories, in terms of growing unemployment, vanishing means to earn a living, and a very serious decline in incomes for working families.

On the Lebanese track, despite the fact that the Israelis recognized the principle of withdrawal from occupied southern Lebanon, they have linked this to a series of conditions and restrictions which practically abrogate UN Security Council Resolution 425.

It is clear that the Arab parties on all tracks are holding difficult and abstruse talks due to the lack of sincere intentions on the part of the Israeli side, its disavowal of the essence of the resolutions of international legitimacy, and its continuous attempts to circumvent what these resolutions include in terms of a frank call for withdrawing from all the occupied territories, stopping the establishment of settlements on them and the attempts to alter their features.

The achievement of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East would not have been in need for all these games, maneuvers, and futile rounds of talks had Israel's rulers harbored a real desire for peace. Once these rulers recognize the Arabs' right to restore their territories, and once Tel Aviv expresses a readiness to withdraw its forces to the 4 June 1967 borders in implementation of

UN Security Council Resolution 242, all the other obstacles can be surmounted. In fact, the achievement of peace would be possible within a few months. However, the fact is that it is the Arabs who are committed to peace at a time when Israel does not commit itself to returning the land. The Arabs commit themselves to a comprehensive peace on all fronts, while Israel seeks to achieve peace in installments over many years, which would also pass through a series of phases. The Israelis hinted that withdrawal from the Golan will take years. The implementation of Resolution 242 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will not be discussed for several years; namely, after the establishment of autonomy. In other words, Israel's words seek a fragile peace that is exposed to setbacks and dangers, while logic and wisdom necessitate a firm and entrenched peace.

The truth is that Israel deliberately wants peace to be fragile. This is because it was forced to come to the Madrid conference and Washington talks under international pressure. It is seeking to seize appropriate opportunities to withdraw from the peace process to resume the establishment of settlements on a full scale, and consequently to collectively expel Arab citizens. Its deportation of more than 400 Palestinians to occupied southern Lebanon four months ago was only a balloon test of the international community's reaction, to help gauge reaction to more serious expulsions in the future.

Since Israel does not want peace and considers it a destruction of its expansionist plans and hostile schemes, the Arabs asked the United States to provide guarantees and assurances that their participation in the talks would not be a waste of time. So, the United States committed itself to achieving a just and comprehensive peace on all fronts of the conflict based on the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions—a peace which leads to the restoration of the occupied territories and to Israel's withdrawal from them.

Today, when the ninth round is about to end, all eyes are focused on Washington to fulfill its commitment to playing the role of an honest, fair, and full partner. It will be very dangerous for the peace process to conclude its ninth round without achieving tangible progress to pave the way for a promising 10th round. The ninth round was supposed to end with the declaration of a series of principles on all tracks, which would constitute a basis for a just, comprehensive, and entrenched settlement. Among these principles is withdrawal from all the occupied territories in return for peace. The Arabs, along with the entire world, are waiting for a genuine achievement to refresh hopes for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the near future which will pave the way for a new age of stability and prosperity in the Middle East.

Press Urges U.S. To Pressure Israel at 9th Round

JN1105114893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 May 93

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN's editorial discusses the ninth round of the peace talks and Israeli intransigence. The paper writes: The ninth round of the peace talks has entered the third week, and we have yet to see any shift in the Israeli position. Observers—including a good many Israeli officials—agree that Israel's maneuvering, equivocating and obduracy must take the blame for the dead end the peace talks have reached. Over the past two weeks, seven sessions were bogged down in issues with little or no relevance to the peace process, with Israel eschewing a commitment to withdraw from the occupied territories and betraying an aversion to peace and its requirements.

The United States' failure to make good on its promises is bound to complicate things ever further, which can hardly promote the cause of peace or regional stability. Thus far, the United States has failed to deliver on its promise to play the full partner role; but with a week still to go, it is not too late for that. If the peace process is to be salvaged and the United States wants to render the talks a success, it must come up with something. The onus of the responsibility now lies exclusively with the United States and Israel, TISHRIN concludes.

Editorializing under the headline: "Waiting for the U.S. Role," AL-THAWRAH writes: All indications are that the outcome of the ninth round of the peace talks falls short of the expectations held out for it by many world quarters, not least the U.S. Administration. The responsibility for that must be borne by Israel's attitude toward the peace process and the requirements for making peace. Israel had wanted for the ninth round to fare just as its predecessors did—simply go through the motions to give the false impression that the peace process is still alive, while in actual fact it is dying. Thus Israel would have gained time and wriggled out of the peace requirements. The paper called on Israel to use this round and seize the opportunity the Arabs have opened for peace, namely, by unequivocally and clearly committing itself to the terms on which the peace process were launched. It is vital that the United States pull its weight and save

the peace process from Israel's obduracy, and honor the promise it took upon itself to play the full partner role as a cosponsor of the peace process. In this capacity, the United States must bring real pressure to bear on Israel and send it the unmistakable message that the talks are not an end in themselves but a means to the profound international goal of a just and comprehensive peace.

Committee for Pan-Arab, Democratic Action Holds Meeting

JN0905190893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] The Coordination Committee for Pan-Arab and Democratic Action in Iraq held an expanded meeting late April. The meeting was attended by political and intellectual figures representing the pan-Arab trend who discussed general political developments in Iraq and on the Iraqi opposition arena.

The conferees held profound and objective discussions of a political and practical nature. They stressed the territorial integrity of Iraq and the unity of its people. They also rejected any attempt to encroach on Iraq's unity.

Regarding the national Iraqi opposition alliances, the conferees emphasized the need to continue constructive and objective dialogue with all opposition forces, parties, and figures in order to arrive at the best means to achieve unity based on national Iraqi constants. Such dialogue should also continue in order to secure the escalation of the struggle to topple the ruling regime in Iraq and to establish a national democratic multiparty system that would secure the rights of all Iraqis in a united Iraq where the supremacy of law and human rights are respected.

The conferees also expressed a special concern in the issues dealing with reactivating action to confront the fascist government in Iraq.

Afghanistan

AFP: New Fighting in Kabul Violates Cease-Fire

BK1105115493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1145 GMT
11 May 93

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, May 11 (AFP)—A new war front opened in Kabul early Tuesday when scores of artillery shells were exchanged by three duelling factions in yet another violation of a two month-old ceasefire agreement.

Fighting centred around Darulaman Palace at the end of a three-kilometre (two mile) long avenue linking central Kabul with its southern-most outskirts.

For five hours tank and rocket shells reportedly fired by Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] faction mujahedin besieging Kabul exploded in both the palace and surrounding buildings, sending giant plumes of smoke and debris skywards.

The Darulaman area is shared by two military factions, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's Defence Ministry forces, and General Abdul Momen's 70th Division Infantry.

Momen, a deputy of the former pro-communist Uzbek militia warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostam, remained neutral in the previous round of factional clashes in Kabul last January-February.

Unconfirmed reports by civilians indicated that Hezb guerrillas attacked Momen's men early Tuesday forcing them back from one of their frontline positions.

"When they found it impossible to hold their posts they fled, but before doing so they looted our houses," sobbed Karim Ali.

A spokesman from Momen's Kabul office commented they had retaliated against the Hezb attack.

Ali and some hysterical family members were trying to find transport to ferry their wounded to hospital.

Ali said his house had been hit by a rocket, but had no idea from which direction it had come.

"It's all mixed up. They were shooting from every direction," Ali said.

While Hezb shelled Darulaman and adjacent government posts, Defence Ministry batteries in north Kabul bombarded the Hezb in the south.

The military situation around Darulaman is complex, with small and isolated pockets of fighters from opposing factions often separated from their main force.

On the hills behind Darulaman Hezb have positioned tanks in posts that locals said formerly belonged to the Defence Ministry; these posts were rumoured to have been sold to Hezb by their local commanders.

The most vulnerable Defence Ministry post is a former communist secret police garrison surrounded on three sides by renegade mujahedin factions, with Momen's men guarding their rear. This too, received a heavy pounding by Hezb.

One anti-Mas'ud faction, the pro-Iranian Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party], was not involved in the fighting at Darulaman, even though Wahdat and Hezb are allies.

But Wahdat and Mas'ud's forces are engaged in a war of attrition elsewhere in Kabul, with daily exchanges of long-range rockets and infantry artillery.

From their frontline bunkers and trenches facing Darulaman, Wahdat guerrillas drank tea and watched with fascination as Hezb rounds bracketed the old palace.

At a Defence Ministry army brigade headquarters just behind the palace, the Hezb incoming ignited a huge fire.

The Wahdat gunmen speculated an ammunition dump had taken a direct hit.

"Let's go for kebabs. They won't be bothering us for some time yet," announced a gleeful Wahdat commander.

In the previous clashes at Darulaman, where 60 years ago king Amanullah intended to establish a satellite city and seat of parliament, the palace was nearly, but not quite demolished in Hezb barrages.

Tuesday's shelling could finish the job.

Further Reportage on Leaders' Jalalabad Meeting

'Harmony' Among Most Leaders

LD1005190893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in
Pashto 1720 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Esteemed 'Abdol Aziz Morad, head of the Presidential Press Office, said the following to the correspondent of Bakhtar Information Agency in Jalalabad city:

Following the previous and present talks of esteemed Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, with the leaders of the jihadi formations concerning the formation of the cabinet and consolidation of permanent cease-fire, further discussions were held today on the new proposal.

Esteemed 'Abdol Aziz Morad added that most of the talks were concentrated on [word indistinct] and that harmony among most of the leaders is a good basis for a common decision to be reached, God willing.

'Faction Leaders' Prevent Settlement

PM1105133393 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 May 93 p 5

[Report on interview with Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, "former chairman of the Afghan Transitional Council," by 'Abd-al-Aziz al-Sadiqi and Tajj-al-Din 'Abd-al-Haqq in Abu Dhabi; date not given]

[Text] Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, former chairman of the Afghan Transitional Council, has warned about the danger of the Afghan Government's granting passports to some Arab extremists who have joined the Afghan mojahedin. He announced that he had turned down an offer from Golboddin Hekmatyar, who is entrusted with forming a new government, to take charge of the Defense Ministry in the government. He blamed the faction leaders for the faltering progress in implementing the peace agreement.

This came in an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT conducted with Mojaddedi in Abu Dhabi, where he is on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan received him yesterday. They discussed the present situation in Afghanistan and the efforts being exerted to establish peace and security.

At the meeting Shaykh Zayid urged the Afghan factions to adopt the language of dialogue and understanding to resolve their differences instead of fighting among themselves—which harms the Afghan cause.

In his interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Mojaddedi said that the present Afghan Government is granting Afghan passports to Arabs who have joined mojahedin ranks. And that he personally—when he was transitional president—had refused to embark on that because he realized the danger and effects of such a step.

Mojaddedi emphasized his deep appreciation for the "Arab mojahedin's" actions and role. However, he said that there was no real need for them to join the revolution, because the numbers of Afghan mojahedin were sufficient. He added that some of those who joined the Afghan mojahedin ranks had aims beyond supporting the Afghans in defeating the communist regime. And they had links with organizations which have political aims and objectives. He pointed out that he had opposed any attempt to turn the Afghan revolution into a field for training and exporting revolution to other Islamic states. He said that Islam repudiates all forms of terrorist practices and that it is based on the principle of no excesses and no forfeiture.

Asked about his expectations vis-a-vis the present meetings among mojahedin leaders in Jalalabad, Mojaddedi said that he "does not expect the Afghan leaders to reach any stable agreement." He added that violations of the peace agreement began the moment it was signed, because the government has still not been formed as stipulated by the agreement.

Mojaddedi pointed out that he had turned down an offer by Hekmatyar, who was entrusted under the agreement with forming a government, to take charge of the Defense Ministry—which represents an element of disagreement. He said that, in turn, he asked Hekmatyar to name someone to take charge of the ministry. Asked whether he believed that there was a possibility of mediation being renewed to help the Afghan parties reach agreement, Mojaddedi said: "We can no longer seek mediation, especially as have not adhered to an agreement that we signed."

He stressed that the faction leaders alone are responsible. And that personal ambitions and the desire for power are the main reason for the failure to reach a stable agreement. Mojaddedi ruled out the existence of interference by foreign powers in the Afghan internal conflict. However, he said that some foreign powers want to have influence on the Afghan scene, but it does not mean that they interfere directly to secure that influence.

Mojaddedi blamed Afghan President Borhannodin Rab-bani, Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, and Abdorrasul Sayaf for the fact that the implementation of the recent agreement is faltering. He said that these men had refused to name representatives for them in the committees whose formation was decided under the agreement to run the Finance and Defense Ministries.

Asked about the secret behind his withdrawal from the Afghan scene, Mojaddedi said that before the jihad stage he had lived in Denmark with his family, and that he returned to Afghanistan after the Soviet occupation. After the end of the occupation and his term as transitional president he returned to Denmark for medical treatment and rest.

Asked whether that meant his withdrawal from political action, Mojaddedi said that he wishes to withdraw, but people "insist on my political role and push me—against my will—into politics whenever I want to withdraw from it." On his nonparticipation in the Jalalabad meetings he said that he will go there but will not enter the palace in which the mojahedin leaders are meeting. And that he will make his contacts with them from outside.

Asked whether he would agree to take power in Afghanistan once again as a reconciliation candidate, Mojaddedi said that his acceptance of that is conditional on the achievement of a certain degree of security. Asked about the decision to pardon the ousted President Najibollah, he said that the decision was taken in the framework of a general amnesty decision.

He pointed out that the general amnesty issued after his assumption of power had been necessary because it was not possible to kill or try 100,000 Afghan communists, pointing out that Najibollah was one of these communists. And because, if he had embarked on killing or trying Najibollah, the amnesty decision would have lost its credibility. Senior communist leaders, he said, had apologized for their role and expressed their regret.

Opening of Roads Needed

LD1105182193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] The leaders of jihadi groups decided today in Jalalabad that the highways and transport routes should be opened for the people of Kabul. The jihadi leaders signed a protocol aimed at realizing this decision and sent an invitation to commanders and security posts. A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent reports that this agreement has been reached based on efforts made by a peace delegation which met the leaders of jihadi groups. The leaders agreed on the view that it is the long-suffering people of Kabul who suffer most as a result of highway blockades. The letter has also been handed over to the peace delegation.

Deputies Call For Confidence Vote on Cabinet

LD1105190393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Deputies of Afghanistan's parliament have asked the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to introduce the cabinet which will be formed to the parliament for a vote of confidence.

In a press conference this morning in Delkosh Palace, Esteemed Hojjat ol-Eslam Khodaidad Erfani, Esteemed Dr 'Abdol Walid, and Esteemed 'Abdol Qadir Alam, deputies to the Resolution and Settlement Council, spoke about the jihad of the Afghan nation and their victory over a superpower and its international consequences; the experiences of the past year and the causes of the sad incidents during this period; the role of the Resolution and Settlement Council in creating a political system in the country; and the talks in Islamabad and the current talks in Jalalabad.

The deputies of Afghanistan's parliament have asked the president and the state authorities to take into account the role of parliament in the state system as one of the principled forces of the state; and they asked that any cabinet appointed in the future should take a vote of confidence from the parliament.

The deputies stressed the need for the participation of parliament or its elected deputies in the current talks in Jalalabad. They firmly demanded that foreign countries should not interfere any more in the internal affairs of Afghanistan but should allow the people of Afghanistan to determine their own destiny. They added that the decision about the future of Afghanistan is purely the duty of the parliament.

The deputies then replied to questions raised by foreign and domestic journalists. Answering a question, Esteemed Erfani said that the state authorities and the president himself should pave the way for the deputies of the parliament to gather in the center and to begin their regular sessions aimed at (?drafting) and approving Islamic laws, advising the state bodies, and reviving the legislative system in the country.

India

Rocket Attack in Srinagar; 1 Killed, 2 Injured

BK1105155093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, security has been further tightened around the Secretariat in Srinagar. This follows a rocket attack on the Secretariat building today, in which one employee was killed and two were injured. Adviser to the state governor, Mr. Ashoke Jetley, has assured the secretariat employees of adequate security. The government has announced an ex-gratia relief of 100,000 rupees to the next of kin of the deceased employee Mr. Mohammad Ashraf and 25,000 rupees each to the injured employees, Mr. Mohammad Amin Bande and Mr. Raushan Lal.

Attack Sparks 4-Day 'Boycott'

BK1105160493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1256 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Srinagar, India, May 11 (AFP)—Thousands of Kashmir government employees launched a four-day work boycott Tuesday after a rocket attack by suspected Muslim militants left two colleagues dead and two injured.

The employees, protesting inadequate security, stormed out of the Kashmir administration headquarters here after the rocket attack, which sparked panic in the complex.

"We are not safe," said Satish Kumar, a Hindu and one of about 3,000 employees who walked out of the civil secretariat.

The rocket pierced an outer cement wall of the complex, killing an employee on the spot and injuring three, one of whom died in hospital, witnesses said.

The attack came a day after the state government shifted its base from the state's winter capital of Jammu to Srinagar, the summer capital and urban hub of a four-year-old Muslim insurgency, in the annual "darbar move."

Colleagues carried the body of one of the dead employees in a procession of vehicles to his village in south Kashmir, chanting anti-government slogans.

"Stop state terrorism," shouted the Muslim workers, who justified the rocket strike as a reprisal for alleged human rights abuses by Indian security forces battling Muslim separatists.

The outlawed militant organisation Hezbul Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attack in a telephoned statement to the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) News Agency.

The group is at the forefront of the violent campaign for Kashmir's secession from Indian rule.

On Monday evening, two Kashmir policemen were killed as they emerged from a mosque in the town of Bandipur. Officials said the two men were killed in the cross-fire between Muslim militants and security forces.

Elsewhere in Kashmir, police enforced a curfew in the town of Kishtwar after a local Hindu leader, Satish Bhandari, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen at a market Monday. He was cremated Tuesday.

Kashmir police chief Balwinder Singh Bedi said the curfew had been clamped as a precautionary measure to prevent Hindu-Muslim violence.

[Delhi All India Radio Network in English at 1530 GMT on 11 May further reports: "In Jammu and Kashmir, security has been further tightened around the secretariat in Srinagar. This follows a rocket attack on the secretariat building today, in which one employee was killed and two were injured. Adviser to the state governor, Mr. Ashoke Jetley, has assured the secretariat employees of adequate security. The government has announced an ex-gratia relief of 100,000 rupees to the next of kin of the deceased employee Mr. Mohammad Ashraf and 25,000 rupees each to the injured employees, Mr. Mohammad Amin Bande and Mr. Raushan Lal."]

Kashmir Governor Condemns Attack

BK1205040093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the curfew continues in Kishtwar and Bhadarwah towns of Doda District on the second day today. The situation has been described as tense in Kishtwar town. The inspector general of police, Mr. S.S. Wazir, told our Jammu correspondent this morning that a mob set on fire some houses and shops in Kishtwar yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir government has denied news reports that two persons were killed and three injured in yesterday's rocket attacks by militants at Srinagar secretariat. The official spokesman told our Jammu correspondent that only one person had been killed and two others injured; the injured are progressing well in the Army Hospital. The governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has described the rocket attack by the militants on the innocent government employees as callous and inhuman.

Government To Restore Normalcy

BK1205094893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] The government says it is determined to ensure that the security environment in Jammu and Kashmir is improved to bring back normalcy. In a statement, in response to a calling-attention notice in the Rajya Sabha today on the current situation in the state, the minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, appealed to all sections of the people to maintain balance and objectivity in reacting to the situation. He said the government is

fighting a challenging situation to maintain integrity of our country in the face of severe pressures, provocations, and a proxy war of massive dimension. The minister said that there are renewed attempts to step up violence in the Jammu region, particularly, in the areas of Doda District. He said the vested interests are trying to give a sharp communal color to the situation.

Initiating the discussion on the calling-attention, Mr. M.C. Bhandari - Congress-I said that the first priority of the government should be to fight terrorism, restore normalcy, and the elections to follow. He said that the current situation in Pakistan has led to instability in that country which has given rise to insurgency in Kashmir. The discussion will continue.

Strike Protests Murder of Hindu Leader

BK1205080093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Jammu is observing a bundh [strike] today to protest against the killing of the Hindu Raksha Samiti [Protection Society] leader, Mr. Satish Bhandari, on Monday [10 May] night. Shops and business establishments in the city are closed and the public transport is off the road. However, government offices are open. Meanwhile, curfew continues in Kishtwar and Bhadarwah towns of Doda District for the second day today.

Panel Criticizes Air Force for Abusing MiG-29s

BK1105161093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1215 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] New Delhi, May 11 (AFP)—An experts panel rapped the Indian Air Force on Tuesday for the large-scale grounding of its MiG-29 fighter planes saying poor upkeep had caused the Soviet-built frontline jets to malfunction.

The Controller and Auditor-General (CAG) said in a report to parliament that 139 of 188 MiG-29 engines had been rendered unusable, some because engineers used dirty lubricants in the fighters.

Seventy-four percent of the engines purchased at a total cost of 108 million dollars had failed within five years and had been withdrawn, the CAG panel said.

Seventy-nine faulty engines were repaired and sent back by the manufacturers in the former Soviet Union, but several had to be scrapped because of abuse in Air Force workshops here, it said.

"Shortfalls in the performance of the aircraft ranged between 20 (percent) and an alarming 68 percent for the combat aircraft," it said and flayed the Air Force for compromising India's air defence system.

India began inducting the MiG-29, which has a combat radius of 650 kilometres (390 miles) with a payload of two tonnes, into its Air Force from 1987 to counter the U.S. F-16s obtained by Pakistan, its main regional rival.

It raised two squadrons of the interceptors, codenamed Fulcrum by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, but soon slashed training because of a spare parts crunch which hit the Air Force after the 1991 Soviet breakup.

The former Soviet Union accounted for up to 60 percent of supplies to the Indian Army and Navy. The Air Force, whose mainstay is the MiG-21, was worst hit by the changes in Eastern Europe.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao said earlier this month that India would replace the MiGs by the end of the century with an indigenous light combat aircraft, a project jinxed by design and fabrication problems for years.

New Uranium Concentrate Mill Planned

BK1105131093 Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 May 93 p 6

[Text] Hyderabad, May 2—The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) will set up a mine and a mill to produce uranium concentrate at Domiasat in west Khasi Hills of Meghalaya where large reserves of high grade uranium have been discovered recently.

The Uranium concentrate will be transported to the nuclear fuel complex (NFC) at Moula Ali near Hyderabad for fuel fabrication for eventual use in the country's nuclear power reactors. The work on the proposed mill and mine would start during the current plan period, director of the Atomic Minerals Division (AMD), K.K. Dwivedi, of the DAE here said.

A feasibility report by the consultants appointed for the purpose was expected shortly. The proposed mill and mine would be operated by the Uranium Corporation of India, he said.

He said the finds at Domiasat was a significant breakthrough in the location of rich sandstone-type uranium deposits.

He said the grade of the ore discovered at Domiasat was better than the existing uranium deposits at Jadusuda in Bihar.

The uranium deposits at Domiasat was estimated to be about 10,000 tonnes. The uranium reserves so far identified in the country were over 70,000 MW [megawatt] nuclear power capacity by 2000 AD and sustaining the same for about 30 years.

Mr. Dwivedi said the deposits of uranium in Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh were found to be larger than originally estimated but the grade was lower than that of the one found in Jadusuda.

He said when the grade was low, the investment requirement for mining and milling would be more. "The lower the grade, higher will be the cost".

The grade of uranium in the country was the lowest among the countries currently mining or producing uranium. He said and added after various surveys

including aerial and ground radiometric ones, it was proved that Domiasat had workable deposits.

He said the AMD was putting up small plants in Madhya Pradesh [MP] and Bihar for recovering Yttrium and other heavy rare earth elements, which are used in super conductors and permanent magnets. Three experimental plants were already working in MP and Bihar.

During the next five years, AMD would give thrust on locating unconformity deposits (deposits which are buried under sedimentary or metamorphic rocks). Such concealed deposits were not discovered in the country yet. Australia and Canada were the two countries which had discovered such deposits. The country had some potential areas of concealed deposits in Rajasthan, MP, and Shillong.

Mr. Dwivedi said the AMD would also concentrate on locating uranium, copper, and coal deposits in the earth's iron reaches. It was expected that deposits in the iron reaches would yield large tonnage besides giving byproducts like gold.

He said special multi-disciplinary groups had been formed for the purpose, which would submit their reports in about one year's time. After the receipt of the reports, areas would be selected for surveys.

The AMD had recently acquired a latest electron micro probe from France for exactly understanding the nature of mineralisation (formation of minerals) and association of other elements which give an idea about the other recoverable byproducts.

The AMD was formed with a small nuclear of 17 earth scientists in 1950 under the stewardship of the late Prof. D.N. Wadia. It has since grown to its present size of about 1,000 scientists and engineers from various disciplines like geology, geophysics, chemistry, drilling, and mining.

Five Deaths Reported at Nuclear Installations

BK1205082393 Hong Kong AFP in English 0807 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] New Delhi, May 12 (AFP)—Five people were killed in India last year in incidents at installations operated by the Department of Atomic Energy, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) said in a report released Wednesday.

The AERB, in its annual report, said there were 148 "safety-related unusual occurrences" at atomic sites during the 1992-93 financial year, which ended March 31.

The incidents resulted in five deaths and an unspecified number of injuries, the AERB said.

The report provided details about only one of the fatal incidents, in which a scientist died after being exposed to

hydrogen sulphide gas which leaked out of two valves at the Manuguru heavy water plant in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Other incidents included a fire at the Thal heavy water plant in Maharashtra state in which flames shot 40 meters (120 feet) into the air, the report said.

Three people received burns in an explosion in September at a nuclear fuel complex in Hyderabad, capital of Andhra Pradesh, it said.

The AERB said human error, violations of technical specifications and leaks led to shutdowns at various atomic facilities for periods of between 26 days and two months.

Radioactivity leaked from an emergency condenser tube at a unit at the Tarapur atomic power station in May 1992, the report said. The incident was reported to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Two people were exposed to a high dose of radiation at the Narora atomic power station in Uttar Pradesh while mishandling fuel. The Narora plant has been shut down for repairs following a turbine fire in March.

Twenty-eight incidents were reported at India's seven nuclear power stations in India last year, but none with potential safety consequences.

As well as the seven power stations—with seven more under construction—the Department of Atomic Energy is responsible for heavy water and nuclear fuel production and research and development units.

India exploded a nuclear device in 1974 but claims that its atomic and nuclear program is entirely geared for peaceful purposes.

Sorbents Developed To Counter Nuclear Waste

*BK1205092393 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
3 May 93 p 11*

[Text] New Delhi—Scientists in the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) have developed new sorbents for elimination of radionuclides like Cs-137 and Sr-90, which are of major concern for as far as environment protection from different types of liquid nuclear wastes is concerned.

Manufacture of these sorbents on a large scale has been undertaken to create an indigenous source for meeting the plant scale operations.

Macroreticular resins loaded with copper hexacyanoferrate, resorcinol-formaldehyde polycondensate resins, hydrous oxides of titanium and iron, phenolic resins with chelating functional groups and synthetic zeolites are among the new sorbents which have shown great potential for plant scale application.

Another new process has been developed for the treatment of resin wastes from nuclear power stations, chemical processing plants and spent fuel storage bays. Under this process, chemical decomposition of the organic matter in the resin is done by wet oxidation. The organic material is fully converted into an inorganic solution amenable for treatment and safe disposal thereby achieving a high overall reduction in the volume of the waste.

The DAE's R and D [research and development] programme has been focussing its efforts on developing new processes and techniques for waste management with the objective of further reducing the activity content in the effluents discharged into the environment by nuclear facilities. Many studies have already been tested on a pilot scale and are now being adopted for plant scale application.

Meanwhile, the first of the DAE's plants for immobilising high active nuclear wastes into glass form has started operating at the Tarapur atomic power plant. Two more such plants are now under construction at Trombay and Kalpakkam, according to the annual report of the department.

The main thrust of DAE's research and development programme on radioactive waste management has been on the management of high active wastes arising from the reprocessing stage. These wastes require safe storage over very long periods.

Simultaneously, the DAE has also initiated work on setting up of deep underground disposal sites for the immobilised high active wastes.

At all the atomic power plants the radioactive elements present in the liquid and gaseous wastes discharged by the nuclear facilities are being immobilised in solid materials of proven stability and leach resistance and are safely contained in disposal sites which are out of contact with the biosphere. These disposal sites are designed and built on a multibarrier principle to prevent the reinduction of radionuclides into the eco-system.

Delhi Committed To Developing Ties With PRC

*BK1205092093 Delhi All India Radio Network in
English 0830 GMT 12 May 93*

[Text] India is sincerely committed to further develop friendly and good neighborly relations with China. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, informed the Rajya Sabha today during question hour that while overall exchanges with China show a steady improvement, New Delhi continues to address outstanding issues with that country including the complicated boundary question. He said the Joint Working Group on the boundary question met five times so far and has made steady progress aimed at reducing differences and to arrive at a fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable settlement. The minister said the next

meeting of the Joint Working Group will be held in New Delhi towards the end of next month.

Rao, Tanzanian President Agree on Ties

BK1105145393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] India and Tanzania have decided to give a new thrust to strengthen their economic and commercial relations. The issue was discussed at high-level official talks between delegations of both the countries in New Delhi today. While the Indian delegation was led by the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, the visiting Tanzanian president, Mr. Ali Hassan Mwinyi, led his country's delegation. During the talks, the prime minister reiterated India's continued support for Tanzania's development activities. The Tanzanian president has since left for Bangalore this evening. He was given a ceremonial farewell at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House].

Byelarusian Prime Minister Arrives on Visit

BK1205073893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] The prime minister of Byelarus, Mr. V.F. Kebich, has expressed the hope that his visit to India will be successful. Talking to newsmen at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] soon after arrival, Mr. Kebich said a lot of ground work and preparation has been done for the visit and a number of important agreements will be signed. He said his confidence in the success of the visit is based on the common interests and common past which India and Byelarus share. Mr. Kebich during his four-day stay in India will hold discussions with the president, prime minister, vice president and several union ministers. Official-level discussions will take place this evening and agreements will be signed on Friday morning. Earlier, a ceremonial reception was accorded to the visiting dignitary on his arrival in the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and many of his cabinet colleagues were present at the ceremony.

Minister Concerned Over Patent Laws in Dunkel Draft

BK1205040893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] The commerce minister has said that the Dunkel draft will have to be discussed both inside and outside parliament before taking any final position on the issue. Replying to a debate on the functioning of the Commerce Ministry in the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said that India has expressed concern at the patent laws on seeds and pharmaceuticals in the Dunkel draft in the ongoing negotiations. The minister said that as far as the issue of agricultural subsidy is concerned, India will not be affected. Mr. Mukherjee rejected the demand for

a joint parliamentary committee to go into the issue, saying that it will restrict India's negotiating position.

Shipment of Illegal Firearms From U.S. Seized

BK1205083193 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 30 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] New Delhi—A large quantity of standard firearms including pistols and rifles, were seized by Customs authorities from the Pragati Maidan container depot in the Capital two days ago. The consignment, booked in the name of a Delhi cargo company, had arrived from the USA.

Although the authorities remained tight-lipped, sources said thousands of firearms of prohibited bore were found in a container hidden beneath a huge pile of stainless steel scrap.

The case was immediately referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). A joint inquiry is being conducted by the CBI, the Customs and Delhi Police. CBI, it is learnt, has arrested six persons in this connection.

Sources said a Delhi-based importer had brought the firearms from the USA, declaring the goods as stainless steel scrap at the container depot. According to the initial indent by the cargo agent, the "stainless steel scrap" was to be used in a "stainless steel" manufacturing process in the Capital.

The CBI and the Delhi Police have been conducting raids in different parts of the Capital. Police sources said the Customs authorities in the Capital were on the alert after the serial blasts in Bombay and the recent recovery of weapons in Maharashtra. On Tuesday evening, the Customs authorities came across the steel scrap atop a container which arrived at the import terminal.

Suspensions roused, they removed the scrap and began a thorough search of the container. They discovered "a couple of thousands" of finished parts of prohibited arms. Top Customs officials arrived at the spot and referred the case to the CBI.

CBI sources said a constant touch was being maintained with US enforcement agencies, and international ramifications of the seizure were being examined. However, Customs Collector Anand Bordia, when contacted, declined to comment.

Government Concerned About 'Illegal' Immigrants

BK1205091193 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 2 May 93 p 12

[Text] New Delhi—The Centre is concerned over intelligence reports that as many as 10 lakh Pakistanis have crossed over to India over the years and are residing in the country illegally.

The Home Ministry has been asked to sound all state governments and Union Territory administrations to

gear up their special police branches to locate people of Pakistani origin and inform the Centre about their activities.

Intelligence reports suggest that the existence of such a large number of foreign nationals was inimical to the security interests of the country. The reports stressed the fact that the Pakistanis outnumbered the armed forces in the country.

According to these reports, fears have been expressed about their possible involvement in anti-India activities. For example, these reports suggest, some 450 Pakistani agents were to collect at Lucknow around mid-February and proceed to the Boats Club for the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] rally on February 25 in order to create trouble.

To a question on it in Parliament, the Minister of State for Internal Security, Mr Rajesh Pilot, stated that "the Government will not like to divulge any information in public interest." Indeed, the Home Ministry is believed to have confirmed reports that a large number of ISI [Interservices Intelligence] agents of Pakistan were trying to create trouble in the country. Investigations are on as regards the identity of these "agents", a large number of whom are said to be residing in India clandestinely.

The same reports suggest that Agra has become a favourite home for a sizeable number of Pakistani agents because of a large number of floating population in the tourist town. According to official figures supplied to Parliament recently, as many as 47 Pakistani nationals were reported "missing" from Agra in 1990, 44 in 1991 and 42 in 1992.

Such Pakistani agents are said to be operating from several towns, particularly Bombay, Calcutta, Trivandrum, Bhopal, among others.

Iran

Official Says Egypt's Threat Against Iran 'Imaginary'

LD1205102093 Tehran IRNA in English 0918 GMT
12 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry official here Wednesday said that Egypt is making efforts to divert the world attention from the real danger of the Zionist enemy to the forged, imaginary threat of Iran.

Commenting on recent visit by Egypt's Hosni Mubarak to the Persian Gulf region, Mahmoud Mohammadi told IRNA that Cairo agreed with the Zionist regime on such a conspiracy, adding that in return Tel Aviv would fully cooperate in restoring stability in Egypt.

While in Kuwait earlier this week, Mubarak accused Iran of trying to spread the Islamic revolution and destabilize Egypt and other Arab states by backing "Muslim extremists" there.

Referring to severe economic, social and political problems in Egypt and Cairo's lack of ability to remove present bottlenecks, Mohammadi said, "the Egyptian regime is trying to cover up its incapability through linking the internal crises to the outside world and put the blame on other countries."

He underlined friendly and brotherly relations between Iran and its Arab neighbors in the Persian Gulf and said, "the idleness and invalidity of such futile and biased claims have been unveiled not only to the regional people but also at international circles."

Commenting on the forthcoming visit of a German parliamentary delegation to Iran, the Foreign Ministry official said that the visit would take place next week at the invitation of the Majles Foreign Relations Committee.

The visit is within the framework of the developed relations between parliaments of the two countries, Mohammadi said, adding that both sides would get acquainted with each other's viewpoints on human rights and exchange views in this regard.

"The human rights issue, due to the cultural differences, have always been at stake between Iranian officials and European countries. We have our own viewpoints and they have theirs," Mohammadi stressed.

He rejected allegations against Iran in regard with production of weapons of mass destruction and stressed that the Islamic Republic was the only proven victim of chemical weapons after the World War I.

"For the very same reason, Iran is the initiator of turning the Middle East region into a nuclear and chemical free zone," the official noted. During its 1980-88 war against Iran, Iraq repeatedly deployed massive chemical weapons against the Iranian troops.

"At present, none of Iran's industrial or military installations nor any of its research centres is capable of producing such weapons and for this reason Iran has not hesitated in signing the related conventions," Mohammadi said.

Moreover, he noted, Iran had decided to convert the production line of factories producing conventional arms into consumer and non-military products and was ready to receive cooperation from other countries in this regard.

Mohammadi also categorically denied allegations that Iran had violated U.N. sanctions against Iraq and said, "Iran has so far respected all the U.N. Security Council resolutions on Iraq and has never violated the approved sanctions."

He rejected recent report by the Kuwaiti newspaper 'AL-WATAN' misquoting the Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the sovereignty of the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf.

Mohammadi reiterated that the stand of the Islamic Republic on the mentioned islands had been repeatedly announced and therefore any report contrary to Iran's official stand "is unfounded and mere fabrication."

President Praises Libyan Position on West

*LD1105170493 Tripoli JANA in English 1624 GMT
11 May 93*

[Text] Tehran Al Maa [May]—The Iranian president, Ali Hashemi Rafsanjani, expressed his admiration at the stances adopted by the leader of the revolution vis a vis justice, freedom and peace.

During a meeting in Tehran with the secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau, the Iranian president reconfirmed the fairness of the Arab- Libyan position in the crisis between the Great Jamahariya and the Western states.

He said that the resolve of the great Jamahariya gives moral support to all Muslims.

The meeting handled cooperative relations between the Great Jamahariya and Iran. Points of view were exchanged on various regional and international issues.

Armed Forces Reports Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations

*LD0905111293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT
9 May 93*

[Text] During the month of Farvardin 1372 [21 March to 21 April 1993], Iraqi forces violated the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq 14 times. The Armed Forces General Command announced that violations of the cease-fire by Iraqi forces, together with documented evidence, have been reported to the UN Security Council, which has published it as an official document. The Armed Forces General Command cited some of the cases of cease-fire violations as follows: support and help for counterrevolutionary elements infiltrating Iranian territory; blocking local roads and fleecing passersby; the entry of Iraqi military vehicles carrying Iraqi forces into the Islamic Republic of Iran; installing barbed wire and constructing barricades as well as moving forces within the buffer zone; and carrying out reconnaissance as well as acts of aggression in areas such as the (Meymey) river, Anvar stream, Khosravi, Naft- Shahr, the mountain tunnel of Baneh, Kani-Sheykh, and Jalaleh.

ADB Asked To Speed up Membership Procedure

LD0805202793 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] The head of the Iranian supervisory delegation to the Asian Development Bank has called for expediting the process of our country's membership to that bank. Iran applied for membership of the Asian Development Bank around 18 months ago, but according to officials

the Bank America and a number of other countries are opposed to Iran's membership.

Any country wishing to become a member of this regional bank—with 53 members—needs two-thirds of the votes of the board of directors.

Rohani, Ukrainian Parliament Speaker Meet

*LD1105150993 Tehran IRNA in English 1447 GMT
11 May 93*

[Text] Tehran, May 11, IRNA—In a meeting with Ukrainian Speaker of Parliament, Ivan Pluyusch, the Vice-Speaker of the Majlis Hasan Rohani today voiced Iran's concern over insecurity in and discord among certain newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union.

Rohani who also serves as secretary of the Supreme National Security Council said the Islamic republic has announced since the onset of clashes between Azerbaijan and Armenia that the solution to the conflict was not military.

He said the Iranian Government had launched efforts to mediate between the two countries and "we are still ready to continue these efforts."

Rohani called as "worrying" certain countries' meddling in the affairs of the newly independent republics and expressed concern that problems similar to what the Republic of Tajikistan experienced, might emerge in other republics.

More on the issue, the Iranian official said a Russian official had recently uttered a worrying statement to the effect that it intended to establish a force in the republics to counter the wave of Islamism there.

People should be free to choose their religion and belief and live with their ideology, Rohani underlined.

He reminded Pluyusch of his country's obligation towards a project to transfer Iranian gas to Europe, agreed upon by Kiev, Azerbaijan and Iran, and called on Ukraine to abide by its commitments.

Pluyusch appreciated Tehran's mediation efforts in the regional clashes, especially Azeri-Armenian conflict over the Karabakh enclave.

He said the newly independent republics were facing long and age old problems, mainly economic ones, stemming from policies adopted by former Soviet Union.

He hoped that personal freedoms and independence would be attained soon in the republics once they become fully autonomous and work out a new constitution.

Ministry Assails Croats' Attacks on Bosnian Muslims

LD1105182293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] In a statement today, our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has criticized the Croats for attacking the Muslims.

The statement says that crimes have been committed against the oppressed Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina for more than one year now. The legitimate government of that republic, meanwhile, has on every occasion accepted the call by all international organizations to establish peace and put an end to hostilities. Yet, each time the world has been a witness to violations by the Serbs and Croats.

The continuation of this state of affairs and the silence and delay of the world community in adopting and implementing a practical decision has doubled the agony of that republic. Muslims in central and west Bosnia are now being attacked by Croats as well. These movements signify a grand conspiracy against the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The statement adds that the Islamic Republic of Iran once again expresses deep concern over recent developments in the region, especially the Croats' move to join the Serbs in oppressing the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. While expecting the Republic of Croatia to use its influence to prevent the situation from worsening, the Islamic Republic of Iran also expects the world community to put an end to these aggressions and attacks through effective measures—by lifting the arms embargo and by opening the communication routes, the world community can at least take a step in implementing the basic principle of the UN Charter, which is the right to legitimate defense.

*** Chinese Assist in Building Cement Factory, Metro**

93LA0037A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 17 Mar 93 p 11

[Text] Peking—IRNA. 18 Esfand [9 Mar]—A Chinese newspaper wrote that this country will cooperate with Iran in the construction of a cement factory, in the completion of the Metro project, and also in the area of machinery.

Quoting an official from the China International Trust and Investment Corporation [CITIC], the CHINA DAILY newspaper wrote: During the period of post-war reconstruction, Chinese companies have looked at the Iranian market, and they are cooperating with Iran in the area of technology and machinery.

On the one hand this company will soon sign a \$60-million contract with Iran for a five-line cement factory

project, with a daily capacity of 700 tons, and it will also provide Iran with the necessary credits.

The CHINA DAILY writes that this company's national and insurance officials are ready to travel to Iran.

The official from the international cooperation and investment company said: For its metro project Iran intends to buy from China high- and low-voltage equipment to distribute and produce the metro valued at \$160 million, and discussions are under way with Tehran about these projects, including the technology and related conditions.

He also said that this company might also negotiate with Iran concerning the ventilation system and the construction of the metro cars, whose contract will be in excess of \$140 million.

War Zone Reconstruction Figures Announced

LD1005162693 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] At a news conference the supervisor of the headquarters for the reconstruction of war zones said that 600 billion rials is being allocated to war zone reconstruction in 1372 [year ending 20 March 1994].

He said that Over the past four years \$570 million has been spent on the reconstruction of war zones. He added: Since 1368 [year ending 20 March 1990], 177,875 houses have been built and a further 37,300 are under construction.

He said: So far 730,000 war refugees have returned to their homes.

Ahmad Khomeyni: Pilgrims Diplomats at Hajj

NC0905202693 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 1 May 93 p 3

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Ahmad Khomeyni in Tehran—date not given; published in "Special Hajj Supplement Za'er"]

[Text] Tehran, Za'er supplement

Each of our pilgrims is an ambassador and if the correct news and analysis reaches them, they can influence the morale of the other pilgrims

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said in an exclusive interview with our correspondent: "Our pilgrims who go for hajj are not like the pilgrims in the olden days when they only went to perform hajj. Each of our pilgrims is an ambassador who can convey the message of the Islamic Revolution to the pilgrims of other countries. Therefore, if each of the pilgrims receives the correct news and analysis on time, it can prove useful for them."

Regarding the importance of the work of the "Za'er" supplement, he said: "The task that you will perform in Mecca and Medina is an important one; even though this

supplement will only be published for a short period, the quality of the work is high. Therefore I would suggest that you perform this task with fervor."

Regarding the importance of meeting with high-level personalities of Islamic countries, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khomeyni stated: "There are personalities who mold public opinion with their speeches, statements, and stances. Therefore, if we can establish contacts with high-level personalities of Islamic countries and we can present the policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the various issues of the Islamic world to them, we can be successful. This is because the international news agencies always distort what we say. The hajj provides us with the best opportunity to protect ourselves from such a situation. Therefore, we should defend the stance of the Islamic Revolution in every way we can.

It was on this basis that his eminence the imam—may God be pleased with him—issued a message to the pilgrims every year, regardless of whether he was in al-Najaf, Paris, or Tehran so that Muslims could have contacts with one another in this manner."

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni asked the pilgrims to use the opportunities of the hajj period to the optimum and to develop greater attachment to the Koran during this journey; their main objective should be to seek nearness to God.

Elaborating on the above, he said: "While in Mecca and Medina, the pilgrims should strive to attend less to material tasks and even though bringing souvenirs is considered a tradition, each one should bring very few souvenirs. The pilgrims should not be greedy during this journey and should seriously refrain from bringing many souvenirs, as this will convey a very unfavorable impression with other pilgrims at Jeddah airport."

Khomeyni Death Anniversary Ceremonies Scheduled

LD1105205793 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT*
11 May 93

[Summary] Ceremonies marking the fourth anniversary of Ayatollah Khomeyni's death will take place for a period of one week starting on Saturday 29 May. The ceremonies will be attended by 2,000 ordinary foreign guests from Central Asia, East Asia and Turkey, as well as 150 foreign political and cultural dignitaries. There will be free bus services taking passengers to Khomeyni's mausoleum where the ceremonies are to take place. It is estimated that around 700,000 Iranians will attend them. Simultaneous with the ceremonies in Iran, Iranian pilgrims in Mecca will also mark the occasion with a ceremony.

Meeting on Development Plan Performance Opens

LD1005161693 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT*
10 May 93

[Text] Through the efforts of the research center of the Islamic Consultative Majles, the first conference in the series of Modarres's periodic conferences began work this morning in Tehran, with the aim of macro-level appraisal of the performance of the First Development Plan.

At the conference's opening ceremonies, Majles Speaker Mr. Nateq-Nuri pointed to the Majles's legislative and supervisory responsibilities. He stressed the necessity of using experts to evaluate plans and bills. He said: In order for the Majles to perform with strength in the fields specified for it by the law, it is necessary that ideas of experts and skilled persons should be utilized. He considered the position of the Majles's research center within the Islamic Republic of Iran's system as very important, adding that the aim of establishing this center is to remove the vacuum in research and specialized activities in relation to plans and bills, as well as to help the Majles to scrutinize points of strength and weakness in ministries and state organs.

The Majles speaker added: In view of the fact that we are at the outset of the Second Development Plan, sufficient attention has not yet been paid to the issue of research or to the founding of a study center for advancing the country's macroeconomic plans. Therefore, with inspiration from large research centers, we must establish such a center in accordance with modern standards.

Before Mr. Nateq-Nuri's address, Mr. Larijani, vice chairman of the majles Foreign Policy Committee, said in the course of a brief speech: The aim of founding the Majles's research center is to support legal bills. He clarified: Issues that will be debated in this conference will have a significant effect on our researchers. Through this center, the majles deputies can get up to date with bills and issues under discussion, before they openly make a speech in the majles.

This conference will convene every month on a regular basis.

Impact of Foreign Exchange Rate Decision Viewed

NC0805141893 *Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian*
22 Apr 93 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "A Problem That Will Become a Crisis"]

[Excerpt] The unfavorable impact of the lack of proper planning and the changes in foreign exchange rates of currency and of food and essential goods are gradually emerging and have led to the creation of a tragic and unacceptable situation in medicine supply and other relatively critical problems. According to many pharmacists, during the past two months there has been a

shortage of medicine to drugstores, and drug distribution companies are using various pretexts to reduce supplies. Among the reasons that these companies give are the unclear situation of foreign exchange, the shortage of foreign exchange facilities, the possibility of price alterations, and the rumors about the dissolution of the National Industries Organization that plays a major role in the management of drug companies.

During the past year when the plan was proposed by the Central Bank and the government on altering the foreign exchange rates and on introducing a single parity rate, this situation could be foreseen. However, officials made many promises and offered various views on how these problems would be prevented. But naturally, as was foreseen, Central Bank officials had not compiled any specific program on how this policy would be implemented. There are several reasons for this. The first is that there are pressures stemming from the need to reform the economy in order to attract international assistance. This led to the acceleration of the official decision on introducing a single rate for foreign exchange. The second reason, which was probably more important than the first, was the absence of expert research on the many effects that this decision would have and the lack of attention to the need for a basic plan to solve the major problems that would emerge. The third reason is the fact that this problem is a real one and should have been considered, and a timetable for solving the problems by relying on the policy of supply and demand and also a plan for solving problems after they emerged should have been envisaged. Under the current conditions it seems that all the three reasons were equally responsible for the situation that has emerged. What is important is that the emerging problems show that in the coming months we will face problems in the fields of service, industry, and even agriculture, and that if we do not now take preventive measures, these problems may turn into a crisis. [passage omitted]

Judiciary Chief Urges Fighting Social Corruption

LD1005182393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT
10 May 93

[Text] At a meeting of judiciary officials held under the chairmanship of Mr. Yazdi, the head of the judiciary stressed the need for a decisive stance toward social corruption and cultural onslaught.

Mr. Yazdi added: The country's judicial system country is always ready to perform its duties in this area through reliance upon the law. It rejects the flouting of the law and any action contrary to the principles governing society.

The head of the judiciary, referring to the decision to prevent a veiled Muslim lady from acting as a member of a jury in a French court, described this action by French judicial officials as being contrary to the rules governing those courts and contrary to democracy.

Official Says Industry Privatization Planned

LD1005175193 Tehran IRNA in English 1716 GMT
10 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA—The current regulations dealing with ownership, taxation, investment and business enterprises would have to be revised in order that the privatization process in Iran will bear the best results, said a speaker at the privatization seminar here today.

'Abbas Hoshi, professor of economics at Martyr Beheshti University of Tehran also offered a report to the seminar on the implications of the adoption of the current single rial-foreign currency parity rate on the industries and businesses in Iran.

Another participant at the seminar, Manfred Balz of the Economic Development Institute of Germany, briefed on process of privatization in the former East Germany and said because the previously government-controlled companies did not have adequate lever at the stock exchange of Germany the selling of companies in Germany was done with the involvement of a mother company.

Deputy Energy Minister of Iran Mohammad Malaki said the Energy Ministry intends to optimize electricity consumption and that there are plans to delegate the distribution business to the private sector.

He said since the ratification by the majles recently of a lawbill that permits the creation of private companies in the area of water supply and waste water 30 such companies have been incorporated in 25 provinces of Iran and in five big cities.

Malaki added that to date as many as 25 private companies have been involved with the task of distributing electricity, and that there are plans to involve the private sector in the distribution of electricity supplied by an electricity pool.

He said the Energy Ministry is of the opinion that the distribution task should be entrusted to the private sector and that consistent regulations should be adopted with a view to step up the tempo of generation and distribution.

Malaki said the Energy Ministry of Iran has already announced its readiness to consider foreign investment in the generation and distribution of energy. He said the ministry has received investment proposals by domestic enterprises and foreign companies.

Shipping Organization Earns \$500 Million

LD1005163993 Tehran IRNA in English 1536 GMT
10 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA—The Islamic Republic Shipping Organisation transported a total of 10.6 million [metric] tons of cargo last calendar year (ended March 20) earning the country dlr[dollars]500 million, General

Manager Mohammad Hoseyn Dajmar told IRNA today. Dajmar who was speaking to reporters on the 26th anniversary of the organisation said last year's figures were the highest ever with each ship making an average of 4.2 trips.

Some dlr 20 million were paid as demurrage charges for delayed unloading while dlr five million were awarded to the organisation for speedy deliveries, he added.

Dajmar said the "Val-Fajr" shipping company carried 100,000 tons of cargo and 64,000 passengers to the Persian Gulf states last year and brought back 47,000 tons of goods and 65,000 passengers to Iranian ports and islands, in a total of 246 voyages.

On shipping links with Central Asian states, he said, regular cargo and passenger lines were set up between Iran and the republics of Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan with Iranian vessels carrying 134,000 tons of goods in 49 trips within a short period in the Caspian Sea. A new shipping line, he disclosed, would be set up between Iran and the Republic of Kazakhstan on the northeastern coast of the Caspian.

From the Persian Gulf ports, Iran also started a new shipping line to East African ports, and plans are underway for a link with Brazil in South America. Kuwait has agreed to allow 10,000 Iranian passengers annually to travel to Saudi Arabia by vehicle via its soil, Dajmar noted. Iran has also signed an agreement with China to purchase four multipurpose cargo ships, each with a loading capacity of 22,000 tons of goods, which are expected to be handed over to Iran in the next two years.

Dajmar said that an agreement has also been inked with a local ship building company in Bushehr for building a container carrier over the next two years in addition to a passenger ship under construction in Australia to be delivered over the next eight months.

*** Appointments to Offices on 10 Mar Announced**

93LA0037B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
10 Mar 93 p 4

[Text] Engineer Gharazi, minister of post, telegraph and telephone, issued an order appointing Akbar 'Atta'i as the official for liaison and coordination of the councils investigating administrative violations in the ministry and its affiliated companies.

The Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction announced: In separate decrees by Kazeruni, minister of housing and urban construction, Eng. Manuchehr Khajehdelu'i was appointed to membership in the board of directors of the Urban Lands Organization and Rahmatollah Taslimi and Faridun Tavasoli were appointed as members of the board of directors of the housing organization.

*** Appointments to Offices on 17 Mar Announced**

93LA0037C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
17 Mar 93 p 4

[Text] By order of Dr. 'Isa Kalantari, minister of agriculture, Engineer Gholam'ali Shahraki was appointed deputy minister of agriculture for agricultural crop market arrangements.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadi 'Eraqi, chief of the Islamic Propaganda Organization, appointed Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Abol-Hasan Navab as his international deputy. This appointment came after the resignation of Hojjat ol-Eslam Tashkiri.

On the recommendation of Dr. Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the republic, appointed Dr. Nosratollah Kazemi Kamyab as the Islamic Republic of Iran's special ambassador and fully authorized representative in the Netherlands.

The Foreign Ministry's office of information and press affairs reports that before this Dr. Kamyab served as president of the University of Baluchestan, the Foreign Ministry's general manager of foreign affairs, Iran's ambassador at the European Office of the United Nations, general manager of the Foreign Ministry's American Section, and Iran's ambassador in Belgrade.

His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, commander in chief, issued an order appointing Second Brigadier General Reza Taqavi as intelligence commander of the Police Forces of the Islamic Republic.

In two separate orders issued by the Friday Imams Central Secretariat on behalf of the leader of the Islamic revolution, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Amirifar was appointed Friday imam of Baldaji and Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Hadi Qaselehbash was appointed Friday imam of Asfarain.

*** Appointments to Offices on 14 Mar Announced**

93LA0037D Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
14 Apr 93 p 4

[Text] In orders issued by Ayatollah Yazdi, chief of the judiciary, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Safdar was appointed chief justice of the province of Tehran, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Razini was appointed chief of the Iran Judicial Sciences and Judicial Administrative Services University, Esma'il Ferdowsipur was appointed police judicial prosecutor, and Mohammad Aqa Naseri Salehabadi was appointed Tehran general prosecutor, and they assumed their duties.

Dr. Najafi, minister of education and training, issued an order appointing Hamid Mansurnia as general manager of the Technical and Professional Research and Planning Office.

Members of the Stock Market Council were appointed by Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, minister of economic and financial

affairs, as follows: Mohammad Javad-Vahaji, general deputy; Dr. Parviz Davudi, economic deputy; and Mohammad Reza-Moqadesi, consultant to the minister.

On the recommendation of Hoseyn Zaheri, governor general of Tehran and with the approval of the minister of the interior, 'Ali Payandeh was appointed as the new governor of the municipality of Tehran, and assumed his duties.

By order of Dr. 'Isa Kalantari, minister of agriculture, Mohammad Hoseyn Sadiqi was appointed executive director of the Agricultural Machinery Development Foundation.

* Appointments to Offices on 28 Mar Announced

93LA0037E Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
28 Apr 93 p 4

[Text] In decrees issued by Dr. Hasan Habibi, first vice president of the republic and supervisor of the president of the republic's office, Ahmad Donya'i was appointed vice president for support and Yusef Ja'fari-Malek was appointed deputy manager for documents and information in the president of the republic's office.

Mohammad Fayz was appointed consultant to the Central Staff and supervisor of the Tehran Province Former Prisoners of War Staff.

Engineer 'Ali Qasemi was appointed by the executive director of the Tehran Province Water and Sewage Company as deputy for south province affairs.

Morteza Fathi was appointed executive director of the Needy and Unsupervised Families Affairs Office in the National Welfare Organization.

By order of the minister of culture and Islamic guidance, Dr. Seyyed Kemal Haj Seyyed Javadi was appointed consultant to the minister in this ministry and assumed his duties.

In separate orders by the general chief of customs, Engineer Hoseyn Arvari was appointed general chief for customs affairs and 'Ali Reza Bahrami was appointed supervisor of Tehran Province Customs, and they assumed their duties.

Pakistan

Sharif Seeks Ouster of 'Dangerous' President

BK1105145193 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu
4 May 93 pp 1, 5

[Excerpt] Quetta—Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistan Muslim League president and former prime minister, has said that in the event of the restoration of the National Assembly, Ghulam Ishaq Khan will have to relinquish his office immediately. Talking to journalists at the press club here before his departure for Islamabad after his visit to Quetta, he said Ghulam Ishaq Khan is a

bad and dangerous person who can harm the country and the nation. He said certain bad persons and people of divergent views and perceptions have been included in the biggest ever caretaker cabinet which is generally kept small in size.

Nawaz Sharif said the entire nation stands on one side, while Ghulam Ishaq Khan is alone on the other. Now we have to see who emerges as the winner. He said the dissolution of the National Assembly has adversely affected Pakistan's image and identity at the international level. It will take years to make up for the damage done to the country and the nation in the course of a few days. We had assisted in establishing peace in Afghanistan. We are being punished for our foreign policy stance. Ishaq Khan had forced the nation to beg from others but we put it on the path toward self-reliance. Ghulam Ishaq Khan never played a positive role in national construction. He praised our government on several occasions. He had also admired us in his speech in December 1992, but suddenly began to see defects in our government. The president has become an autocrat and no dictator can be as powerful as he is by virtue of the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution. Even if the National Assembly is restored, it is feared Ghulam Ishaq Khan will again dissolve it during his remaining six-month term of office. It is, therefore, very essential to remove him from his position as president. Ghulam Ishaq Khan's continuing as president is dangerous.

Nawaz Sharif added that Ghulam Ishaq Khan should voluntarily relinquish his presidential position, otherwise the people will launch a nationwide campaign against him. Ghulam Ishaq Khan should read the writing on the wall. He dismissed our government and dissolved the National Assembly without any justification. The caretaker government has announced its intention to maintain absolutely the same policies which Ishaq Khan had cited as reasons for our dismissal. Therefore, it is the president, and not us, against whom charges should be filed. Ishaq Khan has been proven to be a liar. The people hate the politics that is aimed at serving selfish interests by selling one's conscience.

Answering a question, Nawaz Sharif said we have filed a case in court and will fight our case. He said the Balochistan government is corrupt and he had stated this even while he was the prime minister. What happened to the funds the federal government had provided to the provincial government, he asked? The situation in Sindh and the North-West Frontier Province [NWFP] is not hidden from anyone. The Sindh chief minister should have resigned following the type of treatment meted out to him by the people of the province. The NWFP chief minister has lost the support of the majority of the population. There is no justification for the continuance of the corrupt provincial governments, he asserted. Nawaz Sharif asked whether the Eighth Amendment means that the 120 million people of Pakistan are corrupt and only Ghulam Ishaq Khan is honest?

The former prime minister said that the postponement of elections can be destructive for the country. Answering a question, Nawaz Sharif said no government had ever done as much work as our government did for the construction and development of Balochistan. We were still constructing the Gwadar port and the motorway which could have largely benefited the people. We convened meetings of the National Finance Commission and the Council of Common Interests, in which important and historic decisions were made and Balochistan was provided with billions of rupees for the first time. Replying to yet another question, he said an assessment of the current law and order situation can be made from the fact that Azim Tariq [Muhajir Qaumi Movement chairman] has been assassinated in Karachi. We had established peace and order in Sindh after paying a political price.

Nawaz Sharif paid tribute to the Pakistani Army and said the military is a sensitive establishment in Pakistan and we should all try to nurture it. The military's role is constitutionally right and its role in the present circumstances is all the more praiseworthy. We should encourage them.

Answering yet another question, the former prime minister said we had nominated Ghulam Ishaq Khan as a presidential candidate after being pressured by him. I did not praise Ishaq Khan. The president has lied that we nominated him for the post on our own will. An announcement to this effect was made in the Cabinet at the behest of President Ishaq Khan. We tried our best to abolish the Eighth Amendment.

About the imposition of martial law, Nawaz Sharif said: May God not let it happen. He praised the Awami National Party, Pakistan National Party and Pakhtoonkhwa Milli Party for being on the side of the truth. He said we will extend full cooperation to them and will never forget them. Answering a question, the former prime minister said we have had good relations with Nawab Akbar Bugti and we will contact him as well. On a suggestion that a president must retire after reaching a particular age, Nawaz Sharif said we will be bound to think about it in view of the attitude of the current president.

In reply to yet another question, the former prime minister said we do not want a fourth war with India which has been left far behind economically. The value of our rupee had increased against the Indian currency and our national production and exports had also increased during our rule. All these things have received a setback. [passage omitted]

PPP: No Decision on Joining NWFP Government

BK0805112293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] The federal minister for defense production, Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao, has said the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] has joined the government to ensure free,

fair, and impartial elections. Addressing a news conference in Peshawar today, he clarified reports about PPP's joining the government and said the party cochairperson, Benazir Bhutto Saheba, is abroad. Therefore, no decision has been taken to join the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] government.

Interior Minister Resigns From Party Offices

BK1005104993 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 May 93 p 12

[By Muhammad Saleh Zafar]

[Text] Islamabad, May 9—Nawazbada Abdul Ghafoor Hoti, Senior Vice President of the Pakistan Muslim League [PML] (Junejo), who was sworn in as Federal Interior Minister on Sunday, has stepped down from all the party offices.

Confirming his decision, Mr. Hoti who was acting as PML President after the demise of Muhammad Khan Junejo, in March, told THE MUSLIM that he had followed the PML constitution which barred him holding the two offices. "I expect that others will also follow suit," he added.

To a question about his absence from the PML general council meeting convened by him on Sunday, Nawazbada Hoti said he stayed away from the meeting deliberately because of the principles, laid down by the Quaid-e-Azam.

Asad Ali Junejo, Federal Minister and PML Chief Organizer, had a lengthy meeting with Mr. Hoti at the latter's residence and discussed with him important matters relating to the party.

Talking about his new assignment as the Interior Minister, Nawazbada Hoti, made it clear that eradication of narcotics, immediate expulsion of illegal immigrants from the country, and elimination of corruption from various departments of his ministry would be his top priorities.

"All immigrants, who have become threat for internal as well external security of the country, would have to leave," he said.

To a question, Mr. Hoti said Pakistan's image as a peace-loving country would be highlighted abroad in the days to come. The illegal immigrants had already hampered its interests and tarnished its image abroad. This situation would not be allowed to perpetuate, he added.

The interior Minister, said the government would ensure safety and honour of every citizen. The law and order was a provincial subject but the federal government would provide every assistance to the province in this regard, he said.

To a query Mr. Hoti said anti-state slogan mongering would not be permitted at any cost as it was the question of the integrity of the country, which was beyond any consideration.

He said the government would maintain conducive situation for holding of elections in time and in free, fair and impartial manner.

To another query, the Minister said the reorganization of the FIA [Federal Investigation Agency], Civil Armed Forces (CAF) and other organizations would be undertaken to further streamline their working.

Nasir Chatha Elected PML President

BK0905145093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Mr. Hamid Nasir Chatha has been elected as president of the Pakistan Muslim League. The Central General Council of the party which met in Islamabad today under the chairmanship of the senior vice president, Mir Taj Mohammad Khan Jamali, also elected Mr. Asad Ali Junejo as chief organizer and Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali as senior vice president of the party. The prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, also attended the meeting. The council also elected some provincial officebearers. Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo was elected as president of Muslim League, Punjab, and retired Brigadier Mohammad Asghar as provincial vice president. Mr. Khair Mohammad Bhargari was elected as president of Sindh and Syed Shahabuddin Shah as provincial chief organizer. For the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province], Mr. Mir Afzal Khan was elected as president and Mr. Salim Saifullah Khan as chief organizer. For Balochistan, Mir Taj Mohammad Khan Jamali was elected as president and Mr. Sarwar Kakar as chief organizer. All these officebearers were unanimously elected.

Congratulating Mr. Hamid Nasir Chatha, the prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, expressed the hope that efforts would be made to strengthen the party so that it may serve the nation in a better way. Expressing his gratitude for his election, Mr. Hamid Nasir Chatha said concerted efforts would be made to organize the party in every nook and corner of the country. Mr. Asad Ali Junejo, Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali, and the secretary general of the party, Mr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan, also addressed the meeting.

Further Reportage on Bhutto Stance on Elections

BK1105105993 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 11 May 93 pp 1, 8

[Text] Karachi—The PPP [Pakistan People's Party] co-chairperson, Benazir Bhutto, who has just reached back [as published] from the US where she was said to be on an important mission, has indicated that efforts were

afoot to stage-manage the entry of another puppet government in Islamabad by ousting both herself and Nawaz Sharif from the next political setup.

In her first press talk at Bilawal House since the induction of the PPP into the caretaker government, Bhutto said Monday people involved in this conspiracy were playing games with the destiny of the nation.

Describing these elements variously as "the hidden hand" and "political orphans," she said they were also involved in the murder of the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] chairman, Azim Ahmad Tariq, and the recent bombings in interior Sindh. She ruled out the possibility of army's involvement in these incidents.

Describing the motive behind these incidents as an effort to sabotage chances of free and fair elections, Bhutto said: "We hope that they fail, but if there are chances that these efforts might bear fruit, then I would be obliged to reveal all the facts concerning (Azim Tariq's) murder and the bomb blasts."

In the context of the present global situation, she said Pakistan's only chance was the holding of fair and impartial elections. She reiterated her demand an independent election commission should be set up, army should be assigned the task to conduct the polls, and provincial assemblies be dissolved.

The US, she said, was seriously considering the option of declaring Pakistan a terrorist state by June this year. "Moreover, aid to Pakistan had already been cut off under the Pressler Amendment and its resumption would depend upon whether the US President certified the impartiality of elections in Pakistan," she added.

Bhutto, who was in an aggressive mood, said there was no way anybody could stop the PPP from winning the polls by a wide margin provided the elections were held honestly. "Either the PPP wins or you should be sure that they've rigged the polls," she added.

In reference to her demand that elections should be conducted by the army, Bhutto rejected the argument that 300,000 army personnel would be required for the purpose, stating that only about 600 army officers acting as ROs (returning officers), and AROs (assistant returning officers) would be enough to prevent rigging. "If the DC [district commissioner] and RO at Badin (in just concluded Sindh by-election) were independent, no rigging would have taken place in the Tamto Bago constituency," she offered.

Regarding her demand about the setting up of an independent election commission, she said some changes had been promised but no developments had so far suggested their fulfillment. "We are waiting to see if the promised changes would be brought about," she said.

As for the dissolution of the provincial assemblies, Bhutto said: "We are given to understand that both the national and provincial assemblies would be dissolved. We are still negotiating with some people (in Islamabad.)

These assemblies have to go, because if they don't, elections to the National Assembly would be just as easily rigged as they were rigged in Tando Bago and Mahmoodabad recently."

US visit: Bhutto said she went to the US mainly to attend the CNN's seminar on the role of global media in shaping the politics of the world, but she also found time to visit Washington and meet officials in the State Department, National Security Council, the (?NDI) [expansion unknown] and some senators and compression.

She said she had pleaded that since there was a caretaker set up in Pakistan which could not take long term policy decisions, the matter of putting Pakistan in the red should be deferred till an elected government came into office.

She said Pakistan's relations with the US were at their lowest ebb, with the Pressler Amendment already in force, because of which Pakistan was paying 600 million dollars per annum in installments towards the purchase of F-16 aircraft without having the right to lay its hands on these products. Moreover, the US- owned frigates on lease in Pakistan had been recalled.

"Officials in Washington told me that with the Pressler Amendment already active, if the required signals are still not forthcoming from Pakistan then the US law will take its course," Bhutto informed. She said Pakistan had four basic problems with the US—the missiles problem, the nuclear problem, the terrorism problem, and the election problem. High-handedness on any of these scores would land Pakistan into trouble.

National polls: To a question, Bhutto said the PPP had joined the caretaker government in order to plead "the case of the masses." She said decisions about the forthcoming elections were taken somewhere else. "If the elections are rigged, then we are not in the election commission or in the provinces. The levers of election are not in our hands at moment."

She further said elections were not the end, but the beginning of a process. "It is the beginning of a new political culture not of fundamentalism but of enlightenment," [word as published] she said, adding. "The PPP symbolises enlightenment, democracy, progressive politics. We are not the face of fundamentalism. We are the face of the legacy of Iqbal and Shariat, the legacy of enlightened Islam with an egalitarian society where the king and the pauper are aqual before the law."

Referring to the lowest-ever turnout in recent Sindh byelections, she said it signified the growing cynicism among people. They did not come to vote because they have no faith in the process. If elected representatives can be packed home at will and otherwise rendered ineffective in their legislative responsibilities, then what's the point in taking the pains to go and poll one's vote.

And what had been the result of repeated elections? "They could not bear with Junejo because they could

throw him out so easily. Benazir was anti-establishment so she was dismissed. They brought in the very child of establishment, now he also goes. What can the people do but despair?"

She asked, who would like to form government after getting seven per cent votes. Such an exercise could only lead to further crisis. "I wouldn't want to become the prime minister with someone disputing my mandate," she added. "We want the people with authority to take such decisions (with respect to the holdings of elections) which would help restore people's confidence in their votes."

To a question, she said if elections were once again rigged, then there would be more mass mobilisation, more long marches. She said the elections should not only be free and fair, but they should be perceived to be free and fair. "The whole process should be transparent for everybody to see."

About privatisation of the previous government, Bhutto said she had promised some labour leaders that she would reopen those cases of privatisation where there has been fraud, but all cases would not be reopened. She said the process of privatisation was started by the PPP government, but that was "popular privatisation," not "crony capitalism."

Government Pledges To Hold Election 14 Jul

BK1105143693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] The government assured the Supreme Court today that elections to the National Assembly will be held on the 14th of July this year and all necessary steps—legal and administrative—have been undertaken and are being taken on all levels. Mr. S.N. Zaffar, counsel for the caretaker prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, today produced a letter of the prime minister in the Supreme Court spelling out the government's position concerning the election.

The prime minister said he and his caretaker government are committed to hold elections date on the due date, that is the 14th of July 1993. The prime minister has written to the chief of the Armed Forces to provide supervisory structure for holding the elections with a view to ensuring them being fair and free. The caretaker cabinet has been enlarged to give it a national character so that the impartiality of elections remain transparent to all the political parties who would be aware of the government's working during the election and would, thus, provide an in-built check. In his letter, the prime minister expressed his willingness to include in the caretaker government any minister of any group so that they also take part in the election process, which for once should be expected by all concerned as fair and free, ensuring political stability in the country.

The Supreme Court today continued hearing of the petition of the former prime minister, Mian Mohammad

Nawaz Sharif, against the dissolution of the National Assembly. The petitioner's counsels, Mr. Khalid Anwar and Mr. Yahya Bakhtiar, concluded their arguments. Dr. Farooq Hassan, counsel for the ANP [Awami National Party] president, Mr. Mohammad Ajmal Khattack, was on his legs when the court raised for the day. The attorney general, Mr. Aziz A. Munshi, is likely to make his submissions tomorrow.

JI Forming Front To Counter U.S. 'Influence'

BK1105144993 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 10 May 93 p 5

[Text] Lahore, May 9—The amir of the Jamaat-i-Islami [JI], Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmed, has announced formation of a front to counter the growing American influence in the country.

The JI amir told the Jamaat workers from Lahore and Gujranwala divisions who called on him at Manshera today that the front would consist of sincere, honest, patriotic and Islam-loving persons. Its manifesto would be announced at the country-wide convention of the JI workers to be held on May 24.

He said that Islam was the biggest living issue of Pakistan even today and the nation would offer every possible sacrifice for ushering an Islamic system in the country.

He said that the US was pressuring the rulers to give up the nuclear programme, stop supporting the Kashmiri mujahedin.

Prime Minister Briefed on Military Preparedness

BK1105145993 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, today visited the Joint Staff Headquarters [JSH] in Rawalpindi. On arrival, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Shamim Alam Khan received the prime minister and introduced him to the director general of the joint staff, Lieutenant General Chaudhary Sardar Ali, and other directors general at the JSH. This was followed by a meeting between the prime minister and chairman of joint chiefs of staff committee in his office, which was later joined by the ministers. A detailed briefing was given to the prime minister on the security environment of Pakistan and matters relating to the operational preparedness of the armed forces of Pakistan. The foreign minister, Mr. Sharifuddin Pirzada, Finance Minister Sardar Farooq Ahmad Leghari, and Minister for Defense Production Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao were also present on the occasion.

Sindh Border Sealed After Grenade Explosion

BK1205100393 Islamabad THE NATION in English 12 May 93 p 3

[Text] Shadapur (PPI)—Sindh Government after explosions in Sanghar District has issued orders to seal the

border with India and shoot the subversive elements as soon as they are seen. Leave of police have been cancelled and to tighten the security arrangements reserve police have been called.

Unidentified subservice elements on Sunday to create panic in Sanghar and Shadapur had exploded hand grenade but no loss of life took place. However, some shops were damaged.

The government has taken a serious note of the happening.

It also apprehended that agents of "RAW" [Research and Analysis Wing] are involved in the explosions. With this view, indefinite curfew has been imposed on one hundred long kilometre road strip from Sanghar towards Indian border and security forces have been directed to shoot any suspected person there.

On the other hand special police forces have been deputed for the security of important installations.

Kashmir Radio on Killing of 21 in Indian Kashmir

BK0805143493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir another 21 people, including 10 Indian troops, have been killed in clashes and house searches across the valley. According to KMS [Kashmir Media Service], six Indian troops were killed in a clash at Kralating in Kulgaon. Four mujahidin were also martyred in the clashes which took place during a military crackdown. Mujahidin fired at two military vehicles carrying arms and ammunition. Six Indian soldiers, including an officer, were killed and 13 injured. According to the agency, five people were martyred in custody by Indian troops in Baramula, Sopor, and Jammu City. Reports say the five-day valleywide strike by government employees continued today. The Kashmir Bar Association lawyers staged a sit in in Srinagar to protest the Indian ban on Kashmir leaders performing hajj. Religious organizations have called for a general strike on the 16th of this month.

Denial of Pilgrimage to 15 Kashmiris Deplored

BK0805143293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] The Government of Pakistan has taken note with distress that 15 [number as heard] Kashmiri leaders from Occupied Kashmir have been denied the right to perform hajj. An official statement issued in Islamabad says the Indian Government's decision demonstrates the hollowness of India's claim of secularism. It once again establishes that India has no legitimate right to hold the people of Jammu and Kashmir as hostages and deny them their right of self-determination.

Meanwhile, a reporter of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, CBC, Brian Stuart, in a documentary titled Tides of (?Peril) said Kashmiris are gunned down by

police by the hundreds. Suspicion alone is a death sentence. He termed such scenes a daily occurrence in Occupied Kashmir. The CBS reporter says the presence of over 300,000 Indian troops has failed to suppress the Kashmiris' struggle for the right of self-determination.

Need for Peaceful Kashmir Resolution Emphasized

BK1005113993 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 10 May 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Mediation on Kashmir"]

[Text] A senior US State Department official Mr John R. Malott has told the Congress that Washington has offered "help" to India and Pakistan in finding a solution to the tricky Kashmir problem and that it is willing to mediate in the matter provided both countries agree to its mediation. The US mediation offer is a policy initiative which Pakistan has done well to welcome. While the two sides are stuck in the old groove because of India's intransigence, the Kashmir freedom movement shows no signs of relenting. Already there are some half a million Indian troops stationed in the Valley trying to kill the "Intifada" but with no success. The Indian Army also has been asked to seal the mountain passes to bring to a halt what he called, parroting the New Delhi line, the "infiltration by the militants." All this will inevitably lead to the further rise in the temperatures between the two countries because of the Babri Mosque demolition and the Bombay blasts. The increasing concern about the issue shows that from the perspective of world powers a Kashmir on the boil could potentially destabilise delicate geostrategic balance in the region with its consequences for international peace and security. That is why it has been a major US policy objective in the region in the post-Cold War period to prevent the outbreak of war in the South Asian subcontinent particularly when both India and Pakistan are perceived as nuclear capable.

Given India's obduracy and almost parrot-like reiteration of Kashmir being an atoot ang of India, the prospects of the two countries initiating bilateral talks on the issue of their own volition seem almost non-existent despite the UN resolutions and the Simla Agreement both of which recognise and indeed stress the need for a negotiated settlement. The impasse can be broken only by a mediatory initiative by some powerful third country like the United States. If nothing else, such a mediatory role will help put in freeze the ongoing terror and violence in the Valley. This in itself will be a significant achievement as the increasing turbulence in the Valley cannot remain confined for long to the state and is bound to spill over beyond the state's boundaries sooner or later.

Both India and Pakistan are passing through troubling times. Others may be interested only in the absence of war between them so that its spillover effect does not bother them. But the governments of the two countries must strive for a lasting peace which will enable them to

channelise their creative energies and resources to the development of their respective peoples. We need lasting peace for making progress and not the stability of a superficial kind. This is possible only if a major problem like Kashmir is resolved. The US offer of mediation is a ray of hope but a breakthrough is possible only if India and Pakistan demonstrate a willingness to achieve such a breakthrough. With Pakistan having accepted the offer of mediation it is now for India to show its willingness.

Hindu Pilgrims on Humiliation During India Visit

BK1105070793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] A group of 81 Hindu pilgrims of Pakistan has returned home after nearly 40 day's stay in India. Bishen Das, leader of the group, said on his arrival in Lahore that they were subjected to humiliation and mental torture by Indian authorities and various obstacles were put to the performance of their religious rites. He said that all the members of the group had been detained in houses in New Delhi since 23 April. He said that the Pakistani embassy authorities in India extended them all possible help and made arrangements for their return home with honor.

U.S. Considering Role in Easing of Tensions With India

BK1105114193 Islamabad THE NATION in English 11 May 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Siachen demilitarisation"]

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton is reported to be considering the role of a catalyst for his country in reducing Indo-Pak tensions; his main point of interest being the elimination of nuclear weapons that the two countries are believed to possess. In a report to Congress, Mr. Clinton is said to have proposed demilitarisation of the Siachen Glacier as part of a continuing policy of seeking to promote dialogue between the two countries. So far as Pakistan is concerned the proposal will not require much convincing, since the country already holds the same standpoint on the Siachen issue. In fact back in '89 both sides had reached an understanding on redeployment of troops to the positions held before the '72 Simla Accord but then the Indian government went back on its word, deciding to keep the two armies in a useless stand-off. There is a growing realisation, as manifested in some open intellectual debates in India itself, about the futility of maintaining a costly military presence on Siachen, both in terms of human casualties and materials. According to an estimate, India has to spend about Rs [rupees] 50 million per day on its Siachen operation—on an effort that is of little strategic value to it. But some elements in the Indian ruling circles thrive on confrontations with Pakistan. That is the reason why after six rounds of high-level talks on the issue, these are still deadlocked.

The US interest in tension-reduction measures between India and Pakistan and the specific proposal of demilitarisation of the Siachen Glacier therefore come as a welcome move. It seems like a good opportunity for peace that the US desire to encourage dialogue between India and Pakistan to address and resolve issues between them, including Kashmir, concludes with realisation of an important objective of its own, that of nuclear non-proliferation in the subcontinent. Though Kashmir, the major cause of Indo-Pak tensions, is the one issue the Indian Leadership is not expected to resolve through a dialogue with Pakistan in the near future, yet it may not be too optimistic to pin hope on the US administration's proposal to help diffuse at least some dangerous flash-points. Any constructive dialogue on Siachen should help.

U.S. Stance on Terrorism Issue Said Changed

BK1205023893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 May 93

[Excerpts] Caretaker Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari stated that the annual budget for the next fiscal year will be formulated keeping national interests in view. Talking to newsmen in Lahore yesterday, he said the government is aware of the situation of the national economy. [passage omitted]

In reply to yet another question, he said that there has been a noticeable change in the U.S. Administration's attitude toward declaring Pakistan a terrorist state. [passage omitted]

'Even-Handed' U.S. Approach in Region Urged

BK1205101993 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 May 93 p 6

[Editorial: "When perfectly good advice fails to win many hearts"]

[Text] Our good friend US Ambassador Monjo has advised the government of Pakistan to scale down defence spending. This is undeniably an absolutely splendid idea. If we cut down drastically on bombs and bullets, we shall have plenty of bread and butter. We shall have robust children, healthy adults, contented elders. And contented humans do not indulge in undesirable activity. That would make for tranquility. One can work out an endless list of benefits that would be within our reach if we come heavily down on our admittedly exorbitant defence spending. But there is a little problem. Apparently Mr. Monjo was so pleased with his bright idea that it did not occur to him. Let's point that out. The trouble is that Pakistan has so far been unable to see how bread and butter would be able effectively to ward off our neighbour's rather sophistified missiles like the Agni, the Prithvi, the Trishul, to name only three.

Ideally, civilised mankind should live without wars and weapons. All resources with which Mother Nature has

blessed this wonderful earth, should go to make life beautiful and noble. The very existence of any instrument even remotely productive of force, let alone violence, is a shaming stricture on the immaturity, rather inhumanity, of the human race. As George Bernard Shaw once said, to call man a rational human being is very premature. Being a worthy American, Mr. Monjo may be aware that his own country has sunk untold national resources in developing weapons of mass destruction and led the world in this horrendous enterprise. Why? Because of a feeling that peace is not secure. Surely, he is not unaware of the utterly unlovely reality of the environment in which Pakistan lives, a perpetually menaced existence. Given India's size, its military power, illusions of imperial paramountcy in the region, India can be and, as things stand, really is a very real threat. Nobody in India has tried to hand out a credible assurance that there is nothing in India's intentions which should make Pakistan uneasy, let alone insecure.

Cutting down spending on arms is something inherently related to objective conditions. So long as the Cold War remained a reality, what did the world see? Expansion of destructive power, with the best of nations resources ploughed into the production of instruments of mass destruction. A point was reached when the United States alone could destroy all life a hundred times over in a hundredth of a minute. So could its rival, the Soviet Union. The British had their power of destroying life and the French had theirs. What has all this been in aid of? In search of security. Admittedly, relying on arms for security is basically juvenile logic. But the diabolical reality produces its own devilish logic. Create an environment of trust, amity and peace and the next moment all weapons begin to mock as the shaming tokens of stupidity and bloody-mindedness. The United States is definitely in a position to help this subcontinent be rational about defence spending. But not by pious homilies. Why is it so difficult for Mr. Monjo's government to work for improvement of the general climate in South Asia by helping reason, justice and good neighbourliness prevail? If only the US can persuade itself to be even-handed, fair and firm in its attitude to the two nations in South Asia, it can create exactly the preconditions in which any undue spending on defence would begin to look like national self-abuse. But in the absence of any effort in that direction, Mr. Monjo's noble advice rings more than slightly hollow. And it is unlikely to be seriously heeded. He should be able to see why.

Azerbaijan Embassy 'Functioning Normally'

BK0805151693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Pakistan's Embassy in the Republic of Azerbaijan has started functioning normally. Pakistan's ambassador, Mr. Sayeed Ismat Chaudhary, presented his credentials to the president of Azerbaijan, Mr. (Ali Oglu), [name, title as heard] in Baku. The ambassador remained with the Azerbaijani president for some time and discussed with him matters of mutual interest.

Defense Cooperation With Sweden Discussed

BK1205024693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Possibilities of enhanced cooperation in defense production between Pakistan and Sweden were discussed at a meeting in Islamabad yesterday. Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao, federal minister for defense production, who led the Pakistani delegation at the meeting, expressed Pakistan's desire to boost cooperation with Sweden in high technology. The Swedish delegation expressed their country's willingness to transfer technology in the defense production sector and provide training facilities to Pakistani personnel.

Arabs Flee to Jalalabad To Escape Arrest

BK1205101093 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 12 May 93 p 1

[Text] Peshawar—A large number of Arab volunteers started crossing into Afghanistan to escape the arrests in the wake of ongoing crackdown against them in Pakistan.

Nearly 1,200 Arab volunteers have so far left the country and took temporary refuge in Jalalabad. Meanwhile, the administration is convincing the Arabs to voluntarily leave Pakistan and go back to their countries, but only a few of them showed willingness to go to Sudan. The scrutinizing of documents of these Arab nationals is still going on and the administration to some extent has adopted a lenient action, discarding its earlier stiff stand, mainly due to the strong reaction expressed by religious parties and groups.

The religious parties have opposed the crackdown and deportation of Arabs on the plea that they rendered great service during the holy war in Afghanistan by supporting the Afghan mojahedin. After the crackdown, Jalalabad has become centre of Arab volunteers activities, where Afghan resistance groups are lending them various facilities including accommodation in recognition to their services for the mojahedin cause.

However, some Arabs in their traditional dresses can still be spotted here in the University Town. It was not clear whether they are in possession of valid documents or not.